

*Distribution:* Kelantan; habitat: hill forests c. 300m

*Type:* Kelantan: Gua Musang, 1992, *L.G. Saw FRI 37607* (holotype KEP)

Reference Collections:-

**Kelantan**, Gua Musang, 1991, *C.K. Lim H 984*, 1992, *H 1261* PSM Collection.

## 7. *Iguanura piahensis* C.K. Lim **sp. nov.**

*I. wallichiana* affinis sed lamina oblongata integra vel lobata, glabra, papyracea, laeve sericea differt. *Typus:* Perak, Piah FR, 1992, *C.K. Lim H 1266* (holotypus KEP).

Caespitose, clustering, stems to 2m, leaves marcescent, sometimes entire, usually divided into two or more pairs of lobes but closely spaced along rachis, lamina oblong or elliptical, glabrous, texture papery, smooth and silky to the touch; inflorescence fine and sparsely paniculate four to seven branches or more, with fruit slightly smaller (c. 6mm in diameter) than *I. wallichiana*, usually light green, turning cream to yellow, ripening red.

This is yet another species found so far only in a limited location, where there are contiguous populations of the more gregarious and common *I. wallichiana*. It is an elegant taxon that can quickly be identified once one "gets one's eye in", especially when the oblong entire forms are encountered. Another useful field indicator is the feel of the relatively thin lamina; the nerves are fine and unobtrusive and give rise to the smooth and silky glabrous sheen. Young or juvenile leaves of other taxa can be similar, especially within the *I. polymorpha* alliance, and conversely some old leaves of the new taxon could be coarser. Fruit colours, in the more evidently yellow-cream (not white) stage are reminiscent of *I. parvula* Becc. (q.v.)

Certain herbarium specimens labelled *I. wallichiana* var. *minor* display similar inflorescence, but differ in leaf shape. The specimen collected in 1889 by Wray (3628, K) from an unknown location in Perak, is an example that I consider to be this new taxon. Its name is based on the type location which is one of the home districts of the Temiar tribe.

*Distribution:* Perak. Habitat: Hill forest 300m alt. Locally not rare.

*Type:* Perak: Piah FR., 1992, *C.K. Lim H.1266* (holotype KEP)

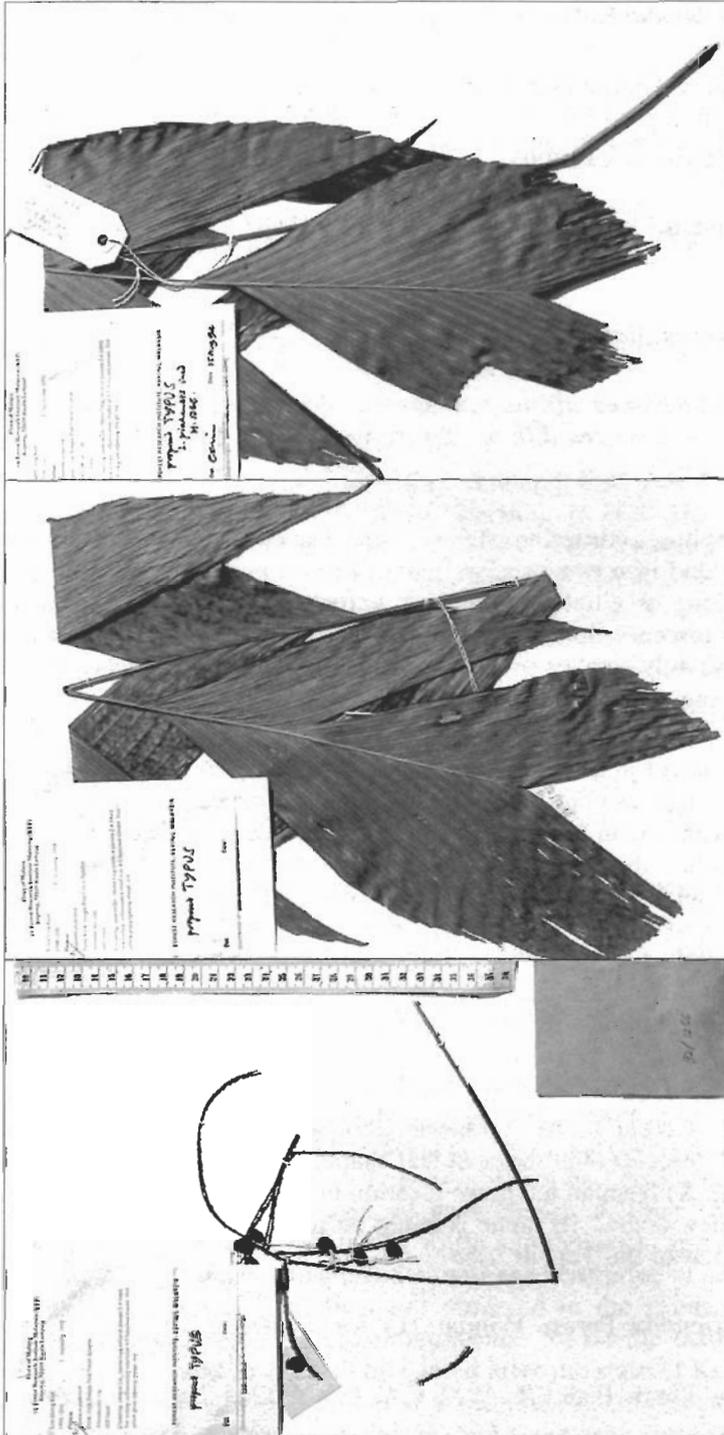


Plate 14 *I. piahensis*: Type specimen: Perak: Piah FR, 1992, C.K.Lim H1266 (KEP)



Plate 15 *I. piahensis*: Leaves silky textured, sometimes undivided, oblong.



Plate 16 *I. piahensis*: Inflorescence with seven rachillae and fruit to 8mm diameter.

Reference Collections:-

**Perak**, 1889, *Wray* 3628 K; Piah FR, 1992; *C.K. Lim* H 454, 1991, H 587, H 1099, 1992, H 1172, H 1202, H 1266, 1993, H 1357 PSM Collection.

**8.** *Iguanura geonomiformis* (Griff.) Mart., *Hist. Nat. Palm.* 3: 229 (1837-1850) and pl. 178 (1894); *Slackia geonomaeformis* Griffith, *Calcutta J. Nat. Hist.* 5: 469 (1845); *Palms of British East India*, (1850); *Miquel Fl. Ind. Bat.* 3: 44 (1855); J.D. Hooker *Fl. Brit. Ind.*, 6: 415 (1892); Ridley, *Mat. Fl. Pen. (Monoc)* 2: 150 (1907); *Fl. Mal. Pen.* 5: 13 (1925); Martelli, *Nuovo G. bot. ital.* 42: 52 (1935); Whitmore, *Palms of Malaya*: 63 (1973); ; Kiew, *Principes* 16: 3-10 (1972); *Gdns Bull.* 28: 216 (1976).

Synon.: *I. malaccensis* Becc., *Malesia* 3: 102 (1886); J.D. Hooker, *Fl. Brit. Ind.* 6: 416 (1892); Whitmore, *Palms of Malaya*: 114 (1973); *I. geonomiformis* var. *malaccensis* (Becc.) Ridley, *Mat. Fl. Mal. Pen. (Monoc)* 2: 150 (1907), *Fl. Mal. Pen.* 5: 14 (1925); *I. geonomiformis* sub. var. *ramosa* Ridley, *Mat. Fl. Mal. Pen.* 2: 151 (1907); *I. wallichiana* ssp. *malaccensis* var. *malaccensis*. (Becc.) Kiew **syn. nov.**, *Gdns Bull.* 28: 220 (1976); *I. wallichiana* ssp. *malaccensis* var. *elatior* Kiew **syn. nov.**, *Gdns Bull.* 28: 224 (1976).

The reasons for reinstating *I. geonomiformis* have been explained (which includes the *I. wallichiana* ssp. *malaccensis* propositions of Kiew). Griffith's description and illustration (*Palms of Brit. Ind.*, 1850: 162, tab. 234) bear out the characteristics as found in Ayer Panas, Malacca, the bifurcating spadix being common. Martius using the same collection contributed to some confusion by his citation: "... spadice saepe simpliciter ramoso". Incidentally, he also clouded his description of *Areca wallichiana*, by noting: "spadicibus simpliciter valde ramosis", but described it elsewhere as having 10-15 branching inflorescences. As with *I. wallichiana*, which is still extant in its type location, the populations of *I. geonomiformis* in and around Malacca can still be referred to.

*I. geonomiformis* has very much the habit of *I. wallichiana* - caespitose, clustering often with dominant stems up to 4m, leaves marcescent entire or pinnate, some with narrow leaflets, sometimes divaricate; the long, stout and tomentose inflorescence is often spicate but may fork into parallel tails, sometimes varying in numbers on the same plant. The fruit is similar to its relative, although in colour it is often white rather than green, before maturing red. The individuals in Negri Sembilan are particularly large in stature and fruit size. The taxon has also often been seen in a solitary form, where basal branching had not yet developed.

J.D. Hooker had listed the synonymous *I. malaccensis* Becc. as a "closely allied" species; its type was collected by Kehding in Klang, where the main taxon is common. Likewise most of the collections cited by Ridley for his varieties came from the southern part of the Peninsula, including Singapore. The species is by no