

inflorescences. It is distinctive in the quite unarmed leaf sheaths, the scabrid undersurface of the leaflets and the unusual armature of the inflorescence and flagellar prophyll. It is an elegant species, known only from the two collections cited above.

Calamus comptus *J. Dransf.* sp. nov. elegans gracilisque ad sectionem *Col-eospathum* pertinens foliolis linearibus confertis et rachidi ferrugineo-lanuginosa *C. rugosum* speciem Malayanam aemulans sed vaginis foliorum vix muricatis et spinis late triangularibus praeditis distincta. Typus: Borneo, Sabah, *Dransfield et al.* JD 5643 (holotypus K; isotypi L, SAN, SAR).

C. nematospadix sensu *J. Dransf.* non *Becc.* in *Jermy, Stud. Fl. G. Mulu Nat. Park* 59 (1984) and *Rattans of Sabah* 159, fig. 79 (1984).

Solitary or rarely clustered slender to moderate rattan with stems climbing to 10 m tall; stems without leaf sheaths 10–18 mm diam., with sheaths to 27 mm, usually much less; internodes c. 7–10 cm long. Leaf sheaths bright green, armed with scattered short broad triangular \pm reflexed black spines to 6×6 mm with swollen yellow bases and black hairy fringes along the margins, usually with incipient horizontal swellings or ridges between the spines and abundant brown indumentum; knee conspicuous, armed as the leaf sheath; ocrea membranous, to 5 mm, soon tattering, reddish when young. Flagellum to 2 m, armed with scattered reflexed spines. Leaf ecirrate, to 90 cm including the petiole to 30 cm, often much less; petiole \pm elliptical in cross section armed with scattered reflexed spines and caducous brown scales; rachis usually \pm curved, densely covered adaxially with caducous shaggy red-brown hairs; leaflets 20–40 on each side of the rachis, very close and regularly arranged, rather limp, to 30×1.3 cm, linear, conspicuously bristly on 3 nerves adaxially, along margins, and along main vein abaxially; transverse veinlets inconspicuous. Inflorescence elongate, to 2 m long, rarely to 6 m, slender, the staminate and pistillate superficially similar, with 3–4 partial inflorescences; peduncle 1–3 m long, to c. 1 cm diam. at the base, the prophyll and primary bracts rather densely armed with scattered or partially whorled short spines to 4 mm; partial inflorescences up to 1 m long, pendulous with numerous distichous rather distant rachillae, each subtended by a minutely thorny bract, the bract tip scarcely expanded; staminate rachilla to 35×2 mm, bearing strictly distichous striate bracts to 2.5 mm long, usually bearded at the tip, the basal bracts sometimes subtending branches, the distal each subtending a staminate flower; pistillate rachilla c. 90×3 mm, bearing strictly distichous striate bracts, tubular in the basal 3 mm, the tip narrow-apiculate, c. 2 mm long, reflexed at anthesis, \pm bearded, involucre explanate in fruit, involucrophore cushion-like, c. 1 mm diam. Staminate and pistillate flowers not available. Mature fruit rounded, c. 7 mm diam., tipped with a beak c. 1.5×0.8 mm, and covered in 13–14 vertical rows of pale cream-coloured scales with darker margins. Seed \pm rounded, c. 5 mm diam., irregularly shallowly pitted; endosperm homogeneous; embryo basal.

BORNEO. Sabah: Interior Residency, Nabawan, Mile 50, Keningau–Pensiangan Road, *Dransfield et al.* JD 5643 (holotype K; isotypes L, SAN, SAR), JD 5127 (K, KEP), JD 5639 (K, SAN, SAR); Keningau, Mile 41, Rashna Road, *Nordin Abas* SAN 85881 (K, SAN); Kota Kinabalu, Sinsuron Road, *Dransfield et al.* JD 5532 (K, L, SAN, SAR), JD 5545 (K, KEP, SAN, SAR);

Sipitang, Melalam, Mile 13, *Dransfield et al.* JD 5726 (K, KEP, SAN, SAR). Sarawak: 4th Division, G. Mulu National Park, *Dransfield* JD 5282 (BH, K, L, SAR).

It was not until I had the opportunity to see *C. nematospadix* Becc. in the field in its type locality and elsewhere in the 1st Division of Sarawak and began to understand its variation that I realised I had been misled by features of the leaf sheaths and leaflets into misdetermining a quite different species of *Calamus* from Sabah and the 4th Division of Sarawak as *C. nematospadix* (*Dransfield* 1984a). In fact the latter taxon is undescribed and, for its neatness, I name it *C. comptus*. Its affinities seem to lie with species such as *C. muricatus* Becc. and *C. zonatus* Becc. in Borneo and even more so with *C. rugosus* Becc. in Peninsular Malaysia, but it is immediately distinguishable from these in the scarcely muricate sheaths. From *C. nematospadix* it is separated by the presence of rusty hairs along the leaf rachis, by the frequent presence of very faint ridges between the spines, the very much longer, straighter and thicker rachillae and the denser armature of the inflorescence bracts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The discovery of many of the new taxa is partly due to the help in the field of the Sarawak Forest Department plant collectors, whose sharp eyes and fine companionship have made fieldwork in Sarawak so rewarding and enjoyable. Heather Wood, Mary Millar-Watt and Soejatmi *Dransfield* prepared the plates.

REFERENCES

- Burret, M. (1943). Neue Palmen aus der Gruppe der Lepidocaryoideae. II. Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Mus. Berlin-Dahlem 15: 797–819.
- Dransfield*, J. (1977). A note on the genus *Cornera* (*Palmae: Lepidocaryoideae*). Mal. Forester 40: 200–202.
- (1978). Systematic notes on some Malayan rattans. Mal. Forester 41: 325–345.
- (1979). A manual of the rattans of the Malay Peninsula. Mal. Forest Rec. No. 29. Forest Department, Kuala Lumpur.
- (1984a). The rattans of Sabah. Sabah For. Rec. No. 13. Forest Department, Sandakan.
- (1984b). The palm flora of Gunung Mulu National Park. In A. C. Jermy (ed.). Studies on the flora of Gunung Mulu National Park, Sarawak. 41–75. Forest Department, Kuching.
- Furtado, C. X. (1935). *Palmae Malesicae*. V. Notes on some Malayan *Daemonorops*. Gard. Bull. Str. Settlements 8: 339–367.
- (1955). *Palmae Malesicae*. XVIII. Two new Calamoid genera of Malaysia. Gard. Bull. Singapore 14: 517–529.
- (1956). *Palmae Malesicae*. XIX. The genus *Calamus* in the Malayan Peninsula. Gard. Bull. Singapore 15: 32–265.
- Ridley, H. N. (1925). Flora of the Malay Peninsula. 5. L. Reeve, London.
- Uhl, N. W. & *Dransfield*, J. (1987). Genera Palmarum. A classification of palms based on the work of H. E. Moore Jr. L. H. Bailey Hortorium & International Palm Society, Allen Press, Lawrence, Kansas.