

# A new species of *Calamus* (*Palmae*) from India

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*Summary.* *Calamus dransfieldii* Renuka sp. nov. is described from Kerala, India.

**Calamus dransfieldii** Renuka sp. nov. Caulis vaginis usque 3.5 cm diametro, nudus c. 2.5 cm diametro, internodiis usque 23 cm longis. Vagina pallide viridis, sparse spinosa, genu conspicuo, foliolis c. 45 × c. 2 cm, utroque latere nervis ciliatis, ciliis usque 2 cm longis, flagello usque 6 m longo. Inflorescentia usque 3.5 m longa, partialibus usque 20 cm longis. Flos masculus c. 8 mm longus, femineus usque 4 mm longus. Typus: India, Renuka 2982 (♀: holotypus MH).

Solitary or clustering, moderate-sized rattan climbing high into the canopy. Stem to 8 m long, with sheaths 3.5 cm diam., without sheaths 2.5 cm, internodes to 23 cm long. Leaf sheath pale green, sparingly spiny; spines to 1 cm long, with a bulbous base; knee conspicuous; ocrea absent; flagellum 6 m long. Leaf ecirrate, to 2 m long; petiole to 55 cm, armed with spines to 5 mm; rachis armed with distant row of spines to 0.5 mm; leaflets pale green, long-acuminate, narrowly lanceolate, regularly arranged, 45 × 2 cm; veins ciliate on both surfaces, cilia to 2 cm; leaf tips armed with short bristles. Inflorescence flagellate, male and female inflorescences superficially similar, to 3.5 m long with up to 4–5 partial inflorescences each to about 20 cm long, branching once in each sex; subtending bracts closely sheathing, prolonged at the distal end into a lanceolate point, densely armed with small spines to 1 cm long; rachillae to 3 cm long, subtending bracts cylindrical at the base and expanded into a cup at the upper region. Staminate flower about 8 mm long, stamens 6; filaments shortly epipetalous; anthers medi-fixed; pistillode present. Female flowers to 4 mm long. Fruit unknown.

KERALA. Palghat District, Dhoni Hills, moist deciduous forest, 275 m, 31 Jan. 1982 & 16 Dec. 1983, Renuka 2982 (♀: holotype MH; isotypes K, Herbarium of Kerala Forest Research Institute); 'paratypes' Renuka 2983 (♂); Renuka & Nambiar 2501 (sterile) (Herbarium of Kerala Forest Research Institute).

This species comes under the group VI of Beccari and Hook.f. in J. D. Hooker's 'Flora of British India (1892)', and can be identified from *C. huegelianus* Mart. and *C. gamblei* Becc. by the presence of long-ciliate (2 cm) pale green leaflets, pale green leaf sheath with conspicuous knee which is sparingly spiny, by the absence of brown tomentum and longer papery spines on the sheath.

The new species is named after Dr J. Dransfield in appreciation of his contribution to the knowledge of the rattans.

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FIG. 1. *Calamus dransfieldii*. **A** sheathed stem with portion of flagellum; **B** portion of leaf; **C** male inflorescence; **D** part of male rachilla; **E** part of female rachilla.

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