Calamus nielsenii Dransfield (Palmae)

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Summary. Calamus nielsenii, from the G. Mulu National Park, Sarawak, is described as new.

Not long after my account of the new species of palms of the G. Mulu National Park, Sarawak had gone to press, I received a loan of palm material collected during the Royal Geographical Society's expedition, by I. Nielsen of Aarhus. Amongst this material was one further new species of Calamus. In order to be able to complete the checklist of palms of the National Park, I am describing this new species as C. nielsenii.

Calamus nielsenii Dransfield sp. nov., palmijuncus gracilis foliis ecirratis ad sectionem Coleospathum Furt. pertinens, rachillis gracilibus non-incrassatis et bracteis rachillarum inermibus parvis C. heteroideo affinis, sed foliolis aggregatis distinctus; species ceterae gracles Borneenses foliis ecirratis foliolis linearibus aggregatis C. poenis et C. schistoacanthus inflorescentiis robustioribus rachillis incrassatis diversissimi. Typus: Sarawak, I. Nielsen 761 (holotypus AAU).

Slender rattan with stems to 1 m long; stem without sheaths 4 mm diam, with sheaths 8 mm, internodes to 3 cm only. Leaf sheath dull green, armed rather densely with scattered brown, stiff spines 4–8 mm long, with yellowish bulbous bases, those around base of petiole longer, to 10 mm, mostly only very slightly reflexed; spines and leaf sheath surface densely covered in pale buff-coloured indumentum; knee rather inconspicuous; ocrea well-developed, tubular at first, later splitting to give two tattered auricles to 25 × 8 mm, dark purplish-brown, unarmed; flagellum not seen, possibly developed (inflorescences flagellate). Leaf ecirrate to 38 cm long; petiole c. 8 cm long, 2-5 mm wide, semi-circular in cross-section armed with scattered reflexed yellowish spines to 2 mm, and abundant reddish-brown indumentum; rachis as petiole but more densely armed proximally and less densely in distal portion. Leaflets long-acuminate, narrowly lanceolate 7 on each side of rachis grouped in twos to threes, c. 1-3 cm distant within group, c. 3 cm between first and second group and c. 6 cm between second and apical group; apical leaflet pair joined briefly (c. 2 cm); most proximal leaflets 15 × 1 cm; mid-leaf leaflets to 18 × 1-4 cm; apical leaflets to 13 × 1 cm; reddish brown hairs scattered over leaflet undersurface, particularly at base; leaf tips armed with short brown bristles. Inflorescence flagellate to c. 95 cm long, only stamine known; partial inflorescences 5 in number, the first borne c. 35 cm above the base; partial inflorescence very slender to 15 cm with up to 4 distant slender rachillae held at right angles or slightly reflexed; most proximal rachilla sometimes branched; subtending bracts smooth or very sparsely armed; rachilla to 3-5 cm long, purplish brown, with a basal non-floriferous bract to 6 mm long, followed by distichous bracts 2 × 0-75 mm, deep purplish brown with scattered

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**Fig. 1. Calamus nielsenii.**

A stem with sheaths, ocreae and bases of leaf and inflorescence $\times \frac{1}{2}$; B leaf with part of petiole $\times \frac{1}{4}$; C staminate inflorescence $\times \frac{1}{4}$; D tip of rachilla with three staminate flowers $\times 3$; E extreme tip of inflorescence $\times 3$; F staminate flower opened out $\times 3$. All drawn from *I. Nielsen 761* by Mary Millar Watt.
reddish brown hairs; involucre c. 1 mm diam. forming a low collar c. 0.2
mm high. Staminate flower narrowly fusiform, c. 3 mm long. Calyx deep
purplish brown tubular in proximal 0.5 mm, with 3 triangular somewhat
striate lobes 0.8 × 0.8 mm. Corolla with 3 narrow triangular lobes to 2.5 ×
0.5 mm. Stamens 6; filaments shortly epipetalous to 1 mm; anthers medi-
fixed 0.75 × 0.1 mm. Pistillode minute. Other parts unknown. (Fig. 1).

Borneo. Sarawak: 4th Division, G. Mulu National Park, Bt. Berar, summit
ridge, sclerophyllous ridge vegetation on limestone, ± 275 m, 19

This very slender rattan is known only from the type; furthermore no
pistillate material is known. Despite this, it is a very distinctive species being
one of the very few Bornean species of the genus with an ecirrate leaf with
narrow leaflets in which the leaflets are not regularly arranged but fascicled.
The other species, C. poensis Becc. and C. schistoacanthus Bl. have much longer
and more robust inflorescences with thickened rachillae conspicuously
differentiated from their subtending axes, whereas in C. nielsenii the rachillae
are very slender and scarcely differentiated. C. nielsenii appears to be close
to Javanese C. heteroideus Bl. The highly developed ocrea is distinctive.