Myrialepis *Becc.* in Hook.f., Fl. Br. India 6: 480 (1893); Ridley in J. Roy. As. Soc. Straits Br. 33: 176 (1900); Becc. in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Calcutta 12 (2): 64 (1918); Gagnep. in Humb., Fl. Gen. Indochine 6: 1002 (1937); Furtado in Gard. Bull. Singapore 13: 339 (1951); Moore in Gentes Herb. 11 (2): 131 (1973); Whitmore, Palms Malaya 79 (1973); Dransfield, Man. Ratt. Malay Pen. 68 (1979); Farr *et al.,* Index Nom. Gen. 2: 1135 (1979) (as *Myrialepsis*).

Bejaudia Gagnep. in Not. Syst. 6 (3): 149 (1937) and in Humb., Fl. Gen. Indochine 6: 1004 (1937); Moore in Gentes Herb. 11 (2): 131 (1973); Farr *et al.,* Index Nom. Gen. 1: 188 (1979); **synon. nov.**

Robust, clustering, climbing spiny dioecious hapaxanthic palm; stem with long internodes and clear node scars, branching at the very base from leaf opposed buds borne adnate to the internode in its upper region; stem epidermis with caducous scaly indument, the cortex heavily thickened, the pith soft. Leaf sheath without knee, variously armed; ocrea scarcely developed. Leaf with well-developed petiole and terminal cirrus, the rachis and cirrus armed with grapnel spine groups; leaflets numerous, regularly or irregularly arranged concolorous, variously armed, and bearing scales on the abaxial surface; leaves subtending inflorescences smaller in all their parts. Inflorescences produced simultaneously in the axils of the most distal leaves; primary axis adnate to the internode above the subtending node; prophyll tubular, 2-keeled and with 2 triangular lobes; subsequent primary bracts tubular, subdistichous, each subtending a first-order branch; first-order branches each with a tubular prophyll and secondary bracts subtending second-order branches. Staminate inflorescence branching to 3 orders, the flowers, each with a 2-keeled bracteole, borne in the axils of bracts on the short third-order branches, or rarely on the second-order branches. Pistillate inflorescence branching to 3 orders, flowers usually borne in dense clusters on short third-order branches, or occasionally solitary in the axils of bracts on first- or second-order branches. Staminate flower with membranous tubular calyx with 3 apical lobes; corolla membranous, divided for most of its length into 3 petals; androecium briefly epipetalous, divided into 6 lobes bearing reflexed slender filaments; anthers oblong introrse; pistillode minute. Pistillate flower with membranous tubular calyx divided into 3 apical lobes; corolla membranous divided for most of its length into 3 petals; staminodal ring briefly epipetalous, with 6 triangular lobes each bearing a short slender filament with empty anthers; ovary spherical, tipped with 3 short stigmas, and covered in minute hair-like scales; locules 3, each with a single anatropous ovule. Mature fruit borne on persistent perianth whorls, and covered in minute ± random scales; pericarp thick; seed with thin sarcotesta, homogeneous endosperm and basal embryo. Eophyll not known.

Type species: *Myrialepis paradoxa* (Kurz) Dransf.

DISTRIBUTION. Monotypic, ranging from Burma, Vietnam and Cambodia through Thailand to Malay Peninsula and Sumatra.

Myrialepis paradoxa *(Kurz) Dransf.* comb. nov.

Calamus paradoxus Kurz in J. As. Soc. Bengal 43: 213, t.29, 30 (1874) & For. Fl. Br. Burma 2: 521 (1877). Type: Burma, Martaban, *Kurz* 1475 (holotype CAL (not seen); isotype K).

Plectocomiopsis paradoxa (Kurz) Becc. in Hook.f., Fl. Br. India 6: 480 (1893) & Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Calcutta 12 (2): 58 (1918).

Myrialepis scortechinii Becc. in Hook.f., Fl. Br. India 6: 480 (1893) & Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Calcutta 12 (2): 64 (1918); Furtado in Gard. Bull. Singapore 13: 340 (1951); Whitmore, Palms Malaya 79 (1973); Dransf., Man. Ratt. Malay Pen. 68 (1979). Type: Malay Peninsula, Perak, *Scortechini* 457b (holotype FI); **synon. nov.**

Plectocomiopsis scortechinii (Becc.) Ridley, Mat. Fl. Malay Pen. 2: 213 (1907) & Fl. Malay Pen. 5: 67 (1925).

Plectocomiopsis annulata Ridley, Mat. Fl. Malay Pen. 2: 213 (1907) & Fl. Malay Pen. 5: 66 (1925). Syntypes: Singapore, *Ridley* 11457, 12500, & s.n. 22 May 1900 (K, SING).

Plectocomiopsis floribunda Becc. in Webbia 3: 235 (1910) & Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Calcutta 12 (2): 60 (1918). Type: Cambodia, *Gourgaud* s.n. (holotype P; isotypes FI, K); **synon. nov.**

Myrialepis floribunda (Becc.) Gagnep, in Not. Syst. 6: 158 (1937) & in Humbert, Fl. Gen. Indo-Chine 6: 1003 (1937).

Bejaudia cambodiensis Gagnep. in Not. Syst. 6: 149 (1937) & Humbert, Fl. Gen. Indo-Chine 6: 149 (1937). Type: Cambodia, *Bejaud* 1 (holotype P); **synon. nov.**

Robust clustering thicket-forming rattan with stems ultimately to 40 m or more, without sheaths to c. 4 cm diam., with sheaths to 7 cm, much less in juvenile plants; internodes to 40 cm, the surface covered in reddish-brown scales. Leaf-sheaths coarse, sparsely to densely covered in reddish-brown scales and variously armed; sheaths of juvenile stems with neat distant whorls of long pale straw-coloured spines to 4 cm; mature sheaths with much fewer, ± scattered or slightly grouped spines; knee absent. Ocrea very inconspicuous, scarcely developed. Leaf 3–5 m including petiole 5–20 × 2 cm and cirrus to 1·5 m; leaflets rather coarse and distant ± regular or grouped in 2's–3's, to 45 × 5 cm, with few to many marginal spines to 3 mm, concolorous but with scattered scales on abaxial surface. Staminate and pistillate inflorescences superficially similar, to 75 cm or more long, with up to 25 pendulous or twisting branches to 30 cm. Staminate flower to 4 × 1·5 mm; calyx tubular in lower 1 mm, with 3 triangular apiculate lobes to 1 × 1 mm; corolla tubular in basal c. 1 mm with 3 triangular tipped petals to 3 × 1·5 mm; lobes of androecial ring to 4 × 0·5 mm, with pendulous filaments to 1·5 × 0·1 mm, and anthers to 1·2 × 0·4 mm, oblong, sometimes somewhat sagittate. Pistillate flower to 4·5 × 3 mm; calyx tubular in lower 1 mm, with 3 triangular lobes to 1 × 3 mm; corolla tubular in basal 1 mm with 3 triangular petals to 3·5 × 3 mm; staminodal ring tubular in basal 1·5 mm, bearing 6 triangular lobes to 1 × 1 mm; empty anthers sagittate to 0·4 × 0·2 mm; ovary spherical c. 2·5 mm diam. tipped with stigmas to 0·7 mm; scales c. 0·1 × 0·05 mm. Ripe fruit somewhat oblate to 2·5 × 3 cm tipped with black stigmas, covered in greenish grey scales like sharkskin. Seed c. 1·5 × 2 cm.

HABITAT. Lowland and hill Dipterocarp forest, and dry evergreen forest, almost always in association with disturbance.

The involved synonymy reflects the paucity of good herbarium material of this rattan. As far as I know there is only one collection of *Myrialepis* bearing staminate flowers from the Malay Peninsula—*Moore* 9075. The concept of

Myrialepis in Malaya was based on pistillate material without reference to staminate material, whereas in Burma and Indochina, the same taxon, based on staminate material was regarded as belonging to *Plectocomiopsis*. Gagnepain was able to show that Indochinese *Pl. floribunda* bore fruit with minute scales, and should thus be included in *Myrialepis*. Beccari (1918) in his notes on *Pl. floribunda* and *Pl. paradoxa* discussed the uncertainty of the assignment of his two taxa to *Plectocomiopsis* and, indeed, included a question mark after the genus in his citation. This suggests, of course, that the limits of the two genera were not sufficiently clear to Beccari. With more material, a better understanding of the genera has been reached.

Gagnepain (1937) based his new genus *Bejaudia* on fragmentary material collected in Cambodia by the French forester Marcel Bejaud (No. 1) and in Vietnam by Pierre (4855); Pierre's collection is sterile. The type, *Bejaud* No. 1, consists of parts of a staminate inflorescence in bud, and of a single leaf fragment taken from the apex of an ecirrate leaf. Gagnepain referred *Bejaudia* to the group comprising *Plectocomiopsis* and *Myrialepis*. He stated it could not be *Plectocomiopsis* because the leaflets are neatly punctate with pale scales on the undersurface, the rachillae straight rather than scorpioid, and the anthers directly attached to the filaments or androecial lobes rather than to a fine filament. Similarly it could not be *Myrialepis* because the leaflets are armed with strong spinules, the rachillae straight and many-flowered, and again, because the anthers are directly attached to the filaments. Gagnepain regarded the sessile anthers as being sufficient to delimit a new genus, quite apart from the other features. I have examined the type in detail; the structure of the leaf fragment is indistinguishable from that of the type of *Myrialepis floribunda* apart from the abundance of spinules, yet spinules are present in the latter. This abundance of spinules could be explained if the leaf originated from an exposed young shoot, as indeed the ecirrate state suggests. The details of the flower were completely misrepresented by Gagnepain. The anthers are in fact borne on very slender filaments at the tips of the lobes of the androecial tube, and are quite indistinguishable from flowers of *Myrialepis*. The rather pronounced sagittate base is a feature of immature flowers. It is supposed that Gagnepain did not soak out sufficiently the flowers he examined, and thus missed the slender filaments. There is one feature, however, which gives a superficial distinction to the inflorescence. In the type of *Bejaudia* the rachillae are straight, rather than curved, and bear many flowers. I propose that the inflorescence fragments in the type are in fact tips of inflorescences rather than tips of first-order branches and that the rachillae are second- rather than third-order branches; this is supported by the rare presence near the base of the inflorescence fragment of the type of curved third-order branches more or less indistinguishable from those of *Myrialepis*. This ability to produce flowers on second- or third-order branches has also been observed in pistillate *Myrialepis* in Malaya (see notes on inflorescence structure) and here too lends a somwhat dissimilar appearance to the inflorescence. In *Bejaudia,* furthermore, the bracts and their indumentum are identical to those of young *Myrialepis*. I have now no hesitation in referring *Bejaudia* to *Myrialepis,* and the species to *M. paradoxa*.

Plectocomiopsis *Becc.* in Hook.f., Fl. Br. India 6: 479 (1893); Ridley, Mat. Fl. Malay Pen. 2: 214 (1907); Becc. in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Calcutta 12 (2): 46 (1918); Merrill, Bibl. Enum. Bornean Pl. 73 (1921); Ridley, Fl. Mal. Pen.