

# New Species of Palms from Thailand, Part II

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Field work and research leading to a book on Thai palms and cycads to be published in 1998 in time for the International Palm Society Biennial Meeting in Thailand has resulted in several unusual collections. A careful search of herbaria in Thailand and the palm literature for Southeast Asia and Malaysia indicates these novelties have not been collected and are new to science, thus names are provided for them here. This article is the second and final one in a series. Although not so named, part I appeared in *The Palm Journal* 134: 28-37, 1997.

*Areca bifaria* Hodel sp. nov. Fig. 1-2.

Species insignis inflorescentiis erectis, rachillis paucis roseis dispositis distiche et plane in uno plano, a ceteris speciebus bene distincta. Typus: Thailand, SW of Narathiwat, 600 m elev., D.R. Hodel, P. & R. Vatcharakorn 1753 (Holotypus BK)

Solitary understory palm to 5 m tall; stem 5 cm diam., brown proximally, green distally with brown leaf scars 1.25-2 cm wide, internodes 4 cm, conspicuous prop roots at base of stem to 30 cm high. Leaves 10, pinnate, spreading; sheaths 45 cm long, tubular, deeply split opposite petiole but still forming a crownshaft, light green; petiole 15-20 cm long, light green with yellow band abaxially; rachis 2.5-2.75 m long; pinnae 10-16 on each side of rachis, 60-70 x (2-)8-15 cm, falcate, acuminate, 1-6-nerved, distal 3 pairs of pinnae truncately praemorse. Inflorescences 1-2, infrafoliar, 25 cm long, stiffly erect, pinkish; peduncle 2.5 cm long; rachis 15 cm long; rachillae 13, these 15 cm long, thick, stiff, ascending, distichously arranged and fanned flat in one plane against the crownshaft. Staminate flowers nearly throughout rachillae in 2 distichous rows, 2 flowers side-by-side within a row basally, solitary in a row apically, slightly sunken and subtended proximally by a short, triangular bracteole; flowers 5 x 2 mm and greenish

and narrowly ovoid in bud, at anthesis 4-5 x 4-5 mm, yellowish green; calyx 0.75 mm high, prominently lobed, lobes triangular, acute; petals 4-5 x 2 mm, long-ovate, valvate, acute; stamens 3, 4 mm high; pistillode 4-5 mm high, columnar, truncate apically. Pistillate flowers 1-2 at the base of each rachillae in each of the 2 distichous rows, 15 x 10 mm, ovoid, jade-green in bud, yellowish at anthesis; calyx 9 mm high, narrowly crown-like, sepals imbricate in basal 2/3, acute apically, yellowish with broad brownish margins; corolla 12 mm high, narrowly crown-like, petals imbricate in basally 3/4, acute apically, greenish yellow; pistil 15 mm high, ovoid, stigma with 3, prominent, large, thick, recurved, white lobes conspicuously exerted above corolla. Fruits immature, 2.5 x 1.5 cm, ovoid, green; stigmatic remains apical, prominent.

*Areca bifaria* occurs in wet hill forest in south peninsular Thailand near the Malaysian border. Its inflorescence is one of the most colorful, showy, lovely, and distinctive of Thai palms. The few, dark pink rachillae, stiffly ascending and distichously arranged and fanned flat in one plane against the crownshaft, attractively complement the green to yellow staminate and pistillate flowers, the latter with large, prominent, white, exerted stigma lobes. The epithet is from the Latin *biarius*, meaning arranged in two rows, and refers here to the rachillae.

*Iguanura divergens* Hodel sp. nov. Fig. 3-5.

*Iguanura wallichianae* (Wall. Ex Mart.) Hook. F. affinis sed pinnis lateribus et nervis divergens differt. Typus: Thailand, Betong, 800 m elev., D.R. Hodel, P. & R. Vatcharakorn 1743 (Holotypus BK).

Clustered understory palm to 3 m tall. Stems 2.5-3.5 cm diameter, ringed, internodes 3-4 cm long, covered with deciduous reddish brown



Fig. 1 *Areca bifaria*, habit, Narathiwat, Hodel et al. 1753 (holotype).

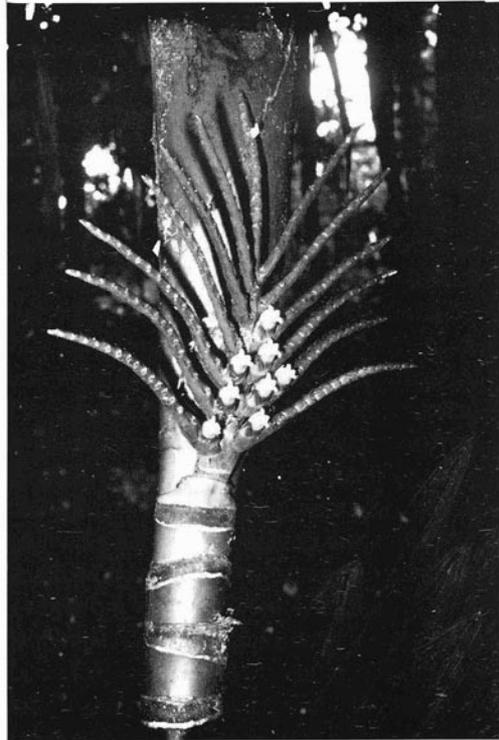


Fig. 2 *Areca bifaria*, inflorescence with pistillate flowers, Hodel et al. 1753 (holotype).



Fig. 3 *Iguanura divergens*, habit, Betong, Hodel et al. 1743 (holotype).

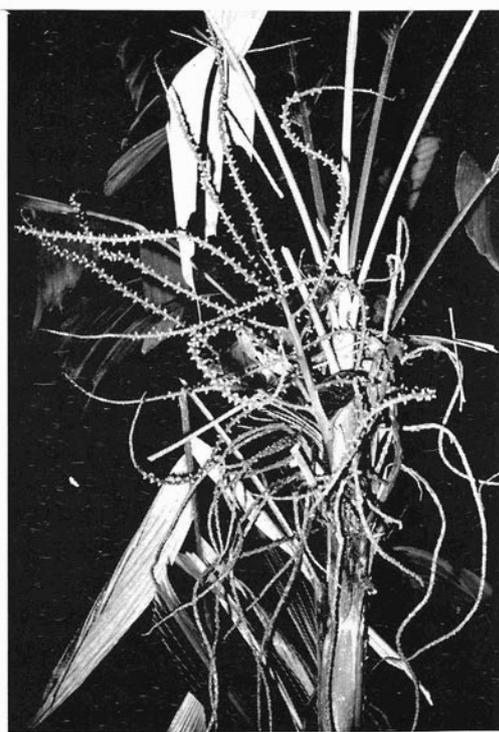


Fig. 4 *Iguanura divergens*, inflorescence, Hodel 1745 (holotype).