

New Species of Palms from Thailand

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Field work and research leading to a book on Thai palms and cycads to be published in 1998 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.

Areca recurvata Hodel sp. nov. Fig. 1.

Subgeneris *Blumeoarecae* Furtado, sectioni *Arecellae* H. Wendl. & Drude. *A. latilobae* Ridl. et *A. pumilae* Bl. affinis sed foliis pinnis numerioribus angustioribus nervis paucioribus; inflorescentiis rachidibus valde recurvatis differt. Typus: Thailand, SW of Narathiwat, 800 m elev., D.R. Hodel, P. & R. Vatcharakorn 1634 (Holotypus BK)

Solitary understory palm to 4 m tall; stem 2 cm diam., leaf scars 5 mm wide rings, internodes 4-5 cm, conspicuous brown prop roots to 8 mm diam. and 10-15 cm high at base of stem. Leaves 6-7, pinnate, spreading; sheath 25 cm long, tubular, forming a green crownshaft, 1.5 cm long brown ligules at apex of sheath; petiole 25 cm long; rachis 1-1.25 m long; pinnae 13-15 per side, these to 40 x 3.8 cm, regularly spaced, lanceolate, long-acuminate, slightly sigmoid, 1-3-nerved, end pinna on one side usually broader, to 30 x 6.5 cm, 7-nerved, apex truncately praemorse, toothed. Inflorescences inter- or infrafoliar, erect, to 20 cm long, 25 cm wide at base, pyramidal in outline; peduncle 1.5 cm long; prophyll to 25 cm long, keeled laterally, splitting adaxially and soon falling away; rachis to 10 cm long, prominently recurved upwards toward crownshaft, branched to 3 orders, lowest branch to 8 cm long and bearing 3 sub-branches of 2 rachillae each and 9 additional

simple rachillae, branches decrease in size and complexity distally until the distal half of rachis bears only simple rachillae; rachillae ca. 60, to 12 cm long, +/- stiff, spreading, slender, filiform, each usually bearing one solitary pistillate flower at its base or at junction of 2 or more rachillae, staminate flowers in pairs and arranged in a row along one side of rachilla, the pairs beginning 1-3 cm distally of pistillate flowers and continuing to tip of rachilla. Staminate flowers 3 x 1 mm, angular, asymmetrical, slightly curved, white, aromatic; calyx 0.5 mm high, deeply lobed, sepals free or connate only briefly at base, 0.75 mm long, ovate, acute; petals 3 x 0.75-1 mm, ovate, free nearly to base, sometimes slightly imbricate basally, acute; stamens 3, 2 mm long, filaments



Fig. 1 *Areca recurvata*, habit, Hodel et al. 1634 (holotype).

slender, 1 mm long, anthers 1.5 mm long. Pistillate flowers 8 x 4 mm, ovoid, white, subtended by 2 triangular acute bracteoles to 0.75 mm long; calyx slightly shorter than but otherwise similar to corolla, 5-7 mm high, lobed, sepals imbricate in basal 2/3, acute-rounded apically, margins membranous and minutely fringed, prominently striated when dry; petals 8 mm long, ovate, imbricate nearly to apex and there mucronate and acute-rounded, striated when dry; pistil on a 0.75 mm stalk, 5 x 3 mm, ovoid, minutely and densely pebbled, style 1 mm long, thick, stigma lobes 0.75 mm long, erect, thick, triangular. Fruits not seen.

The specific epithet is from the Latin *recurvatus*, meaning recurved, and is used here in reference to the prominently recurved inflorescence rachis. *Areca recurvata* is closest to *A. pumila* and *A. latiloba* but these latter two species differ in their fewer, broader pinnae with more nerves and inflorescences with straight rachises. *A. recurvata* is localized in hill forest in southern peninsular Thailand.

***Iguanura speciosa* Hodel sp. nov. Figs 2 & 3.**

I. polymorphae Becc. affinis sed foliis vaginis ligulis prominens; inflorescentiis rachillis paucioribus differt. Typus: Thailand, SW of Narathiwat, 600 m elev., D.R. Hodel, P. & R. Vatcharakorn 1628 (Holotypus BK).

Clustered or solitary understory palm to 4 m tall. Stems 1-1.5 cm diam., internodes to 5 cm, green becoming brown with age, variously covered with +/- deciduous grayish felt-like indument and scattered clusters of stellate white hairs. Leaves 8-12 per stem, simple, bifid, spreading; sheath to 14 cm long, green but densely covered with similar indument as stem, tubular, obliquely short-open apically and there tattered into 2-3 brown papery lanceolate ligules to 2.5 cm long; petiole to 10 cm long, densely covered with similar indument as stem; rachis to 36 cm long with a slender filiform tail to 5 mm long at tip, grayish to rusty-brown coarse long hairs adaxially, thick grayish felt-like indument abaxially extending onto some nerves; blade to 42 x 15 cm, oblong, bifid apically for 5 cm, flat, infrequently wavy, lateral margins



Fig. 2 *Iguanura speciosa*, habit, Hodel et al. 1628 (holotype).



Fig. 3 *Iguanura speciosa*, habit, cultivated. Nong Nooch Tropical Garden, Thailand.