

**Note: Within this account, as in my other taxonomic papers, certain specimens (prefix: H) currently kept in the Palm Search Malaysia collection are cited to supplement herbarium collections examined. Although it is intended eventually to deposit more specimens in the major reference herbaria, many items represent field records of the in situ conservation status, which the PSM project is in the process of monitoring.*

3. *Pinanga auriculata* Becc. var *leucocarpa* C.K. Lim var. nov.

A varietate typica fructibus albidis in statu immaturo distinguibilis.

Typus: Pahang, Kuala Tenok, 1891, *Ridley 3158* (holotypus, SING; isotypus, FI, K)

Synon nov.: *P. patula sensu* Ridley non Blume, Ridley. *Materials for a Flora of the Malay Peninsula*. 2 (1907) 143; *P. bowiana* Hodel. *The Palm Journal* 134 (1997) 35. (Type: Thailand: Narathiwat, 1997, *Hodel & Vatcharakorn 1608*, BK)

Stem, size and habit similar to *P. auriculata* var. *merguensis*; similarly, leaves divided with six to eleven pairs of leaflets, sigmoidal, with four nerves, sometimes bullate, glabrous, light or dark green, lighter on underside; prophyll drying papery; inflorescence infrafoliar, pendent, with two to six rachillae, usually light green; floral pits distichously arranged, flowers not examined; drupes globose, 6 x 8 mm, distinctively creamy white with green tips when immature, ripening red to black.

Geographical range: only along east coast of peninsular Thailand and Peninsular Malaysia, and Singapore.

Notes: As discussed in the Introduction, the specimen from Pahang collected by Ridley was incorrectly determined by Beccari, who may not have known that the Malayan taxon was distinctively solitary. Ridley had later described it as “tufted” or with “several” stems, and also confused it with *P. pectinata*. Whitmore (1973: 92) was obviously aware that Ridley’s descriptions of *P. patula* were faulty, and from his field observations pointed out that it was a solitary species (Plate 8). In habit and leaf form, which are pronouncedly sigmoidal (Plate 9), it could sometimes be confused with *P. auriculata* var. *merguensis*, which it closely resembles, but can be distinguished by the fruit, which are more globose and creamy white (with green tips) when immature, or nearly mature (Plate 12) – hence the varietal epithet. The fruit is also reminiscent of those of *P. limosa*, which is a diminutive species

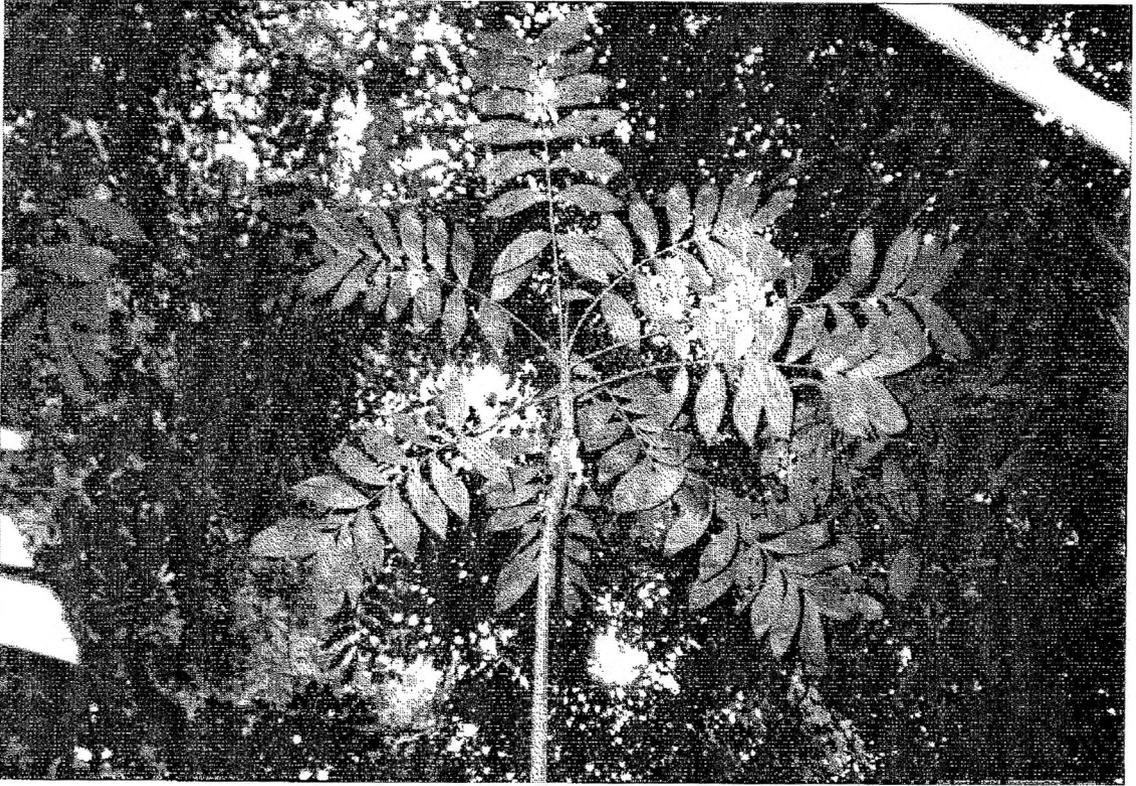


Plate 8. *Pinanga auriculata* Becc. var. *leucocarpa* C.K.Lim, at Merapoh, Pahang.

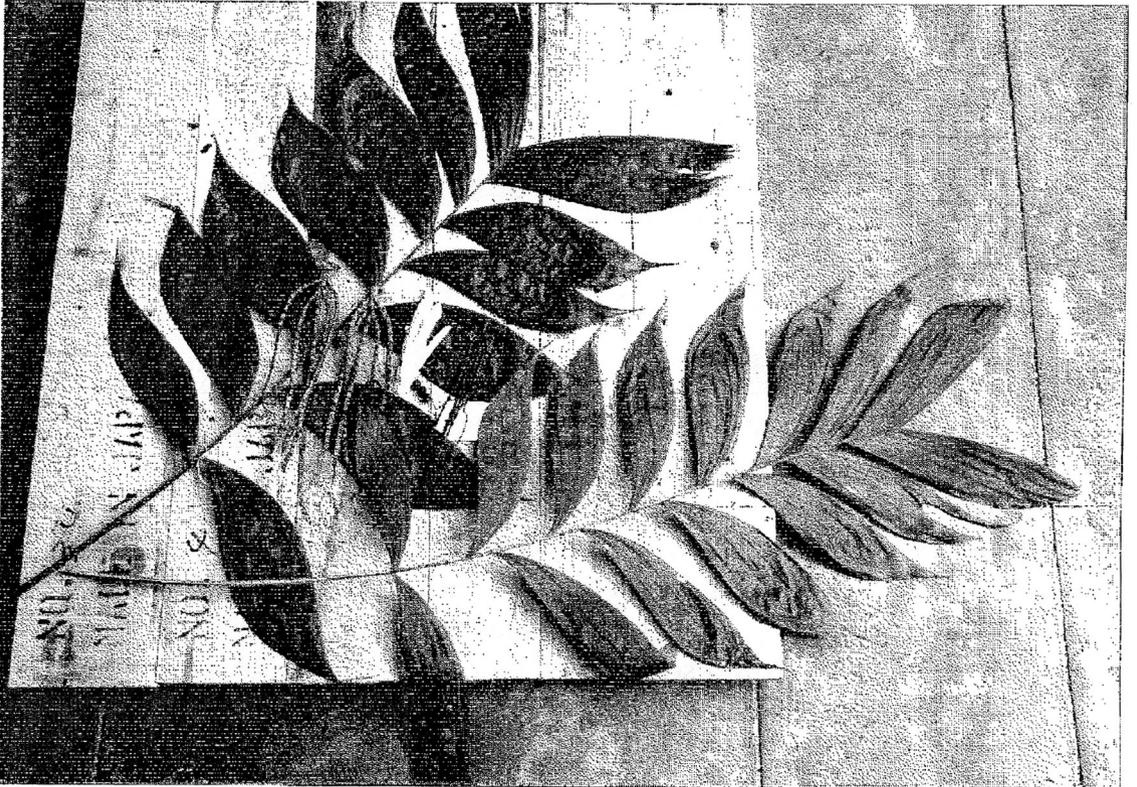


Plate 9. *Pinanga auriculata* var. *leucocarpa*, leaves and inflorescence (*H0583).

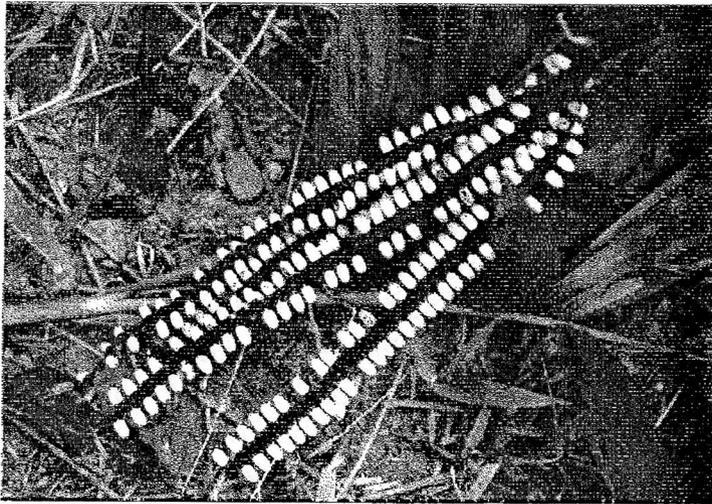


Plate 10. *Pinanga riparia*, inflorescence and fruit (*H10509).

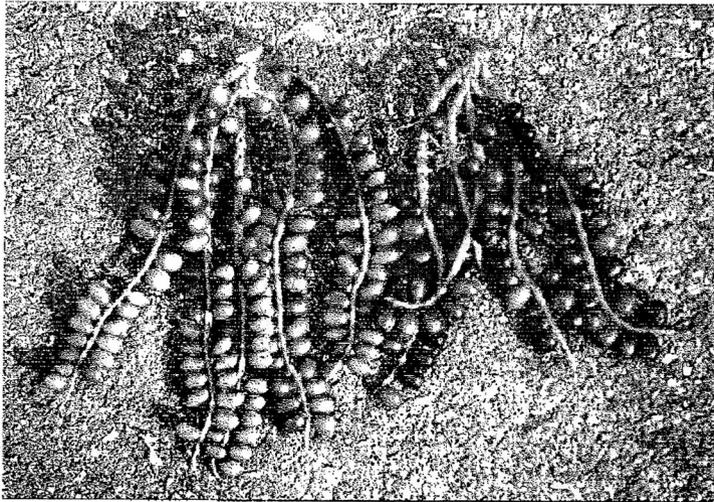


Plate 11. *Pinanga auriculata* var. *merguensis*, inflorescence and fruit (*H1837).

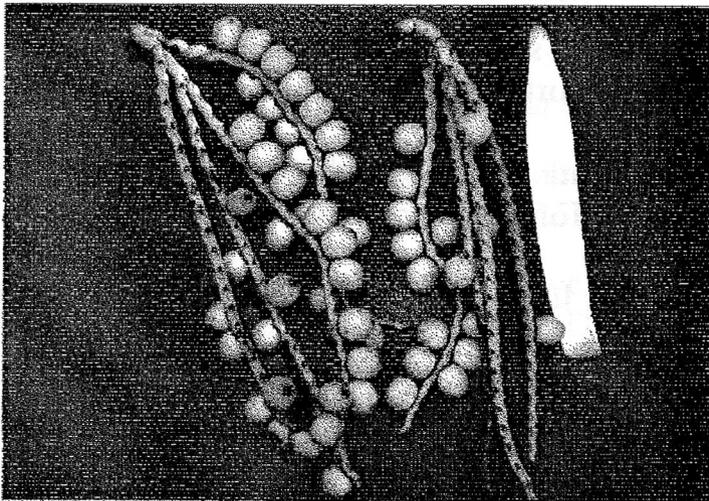


Plate 12. *Pinanga auriculata* var. *leucocarpa*, inflorescence and fruit (*H1259).

with spicate inflorescences. It should be noted that when dried, drupes tend to look quite similar to those of *P. limosa* but are more elliptical or fusiform, and no longer globose.

Both varieties of *P. auriculata* are quite variable in robustness and size – seen fruiting at heights varying from 2 to 4 m. In the inflorescence of var. *leucocarpa*, the rachillae are usually light green, but coral red variants have been observed, with immature drupes not the usual creamy colour, but red; this rare variation has also been noticed in *P. limosa*.

In an earlier paper (Lim, 1998), I determined that *P. bowiana* Hodel was conspecific with “*P. patula* Blume” – more correctly, with *P. patula sensu* Ridley *non* Blume. In the light of further research on the basionym, both will now be reduced to synonymy under *P. auriculata* var. *leucocarpa*. In his account, Hodel did not seem aware of the many herbarium collections of the Malayan taxon, or of those collected previously in the Narathiwat area. His description also lacked the essential mention of the fruit and diagnostic colour of the drupes, but from familiarity with his collection sites, I feel sure that his specimen is of this particular variety.

The Ridley specimen from Pahang is for Malesian taxonomy important and historical, and has drawn with it numerous other collections designated similarly. For this reason, it continues to serve as the type for the new variety. The many herbarium specimens hitherto labelled *P. patula* by Ridley and others, however, may now have to be redesignated, and sorted out to differentiate var. *leucocarpa* from var. *merguensis*, the convenient initial guide being the collection site, and better, from clear evidence of the inflorescence and fruit.

As a result of more extensive field monitoring, territoriality becomes a useful indicator where it can be reasonably sure that certain taxa are localised. In geographical range, var. *leucocarpa* is widespread along the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia from Singapore and Johor to Kelantan, and in the Narathiwat area of Southern Thailand, but has so far not been found in the western side of the Peninsula where var. *merguensis* is common, from Perlis northwards.

Distribution: Thailand: Narathiwat; Peninsular Malaysia: Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Johor; Singapore.

Habitat: hill forests or lowland, swamp; not rare in Peninsular Malaysia.

Specimens examined: Thailand: Narathiwat, 1997, Hodel & Vatcharakorn 1608, BK (Holotype of *P. bowiana* Hodel); Peninsular Malaysia: Terengganu, Kemaman, 1935, Corner30165 (K, SING), Ulu Setiu, 1977, J. Dransfield JD5175 (K), G. Padang, 1969, T.C. Whitmore FRI 12749 (KEP), Sg. Kerbat, 1971, T.C. Whitmore FRI 20222 (KEP), Kelantan, Bukit Batu

Papan, 1935, *Henderson 29525* (SING), Pahang, Temerloh, 1967, *Palmer 18* (SING), K. Kenyam, 1985, *J. Dransfield JD6224* (K); Singapore: Bukit Timah, 1902, *Ridley s.n.*, (SING).

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