

upturned or horizontal, scattered prickles. *Leaves* large, cirriferous; petiole in one specimen more than 13 cm. long, armed on the dorsum and on the margins with distant small spines; rachis armed on the dorsum with 1-3-nate claws. *Leaflets* numerous equidistant, linear-lanceolate, minutely dotted with scales in the lower surface, narrowed into a long fine bristly point, the midrib slightly armed above with 1-3 mm. long setae; the largest leaflets seen 38-45 cm. long, 3-4 cm. broad. *Male inflorescence* a terminal panicle with primary branches issuing from the axilla of reduced leaves; primary branches 45-65 cm. long, bearing many pendulous secondary branches; primary spathes tubular closely sheathing, 15-30 mm. long, striate, almost horizontally truncate, produced on one side into a triangular ligule; secondary branches inserted each at the base of a primary spathe, 30-45 cm. long, or much shorter in the terminal parts of the branch; secondary spathes puberulous scurfy, striate, funnel-shaped, expanded at the mouth, truncate, ligulate on one side, ciliate in the margins; male spikelets inserted within the axil of the secondary spathe, the largest being 10-12 mm. long and bearing flowers in 2 series consisting each of 8-10 flowers; spathelets one-sided, bracteiform, acuminate, puberulous scurfy, striate; involucre shallow concave, bidentate, single or formed of 2 connate bracts, puberulous, scurfy, striate; male flowers 2 mm. long, ovoid, immature; calyx 3-toothed, striate; corolla 3-parted, ovate lobed; stamens connate at their bases. *Female plants* unknown.

MALAYA: *Selangor*, Rantau Panjang (Ridley 12,119, isotype).

This species is known only from an imperfectly developed male specimen collected under the number cited above. Beccari suggests the possibility of this being a juvenile form of *P. Wrayi*; however he indicates the following differences:

Leaflets of *P. dubius* have more secondary nerves and are more distinctly lepidote underneath than those of *P. Wrayi*. In *P. dubius* the calyx is striately veined and the corolla is deeply parted having ovate lobes.

Further study is needed to see whether these characters noticed in underdeveloped flowers disappear as the flowers become older, and whether the leaflets produced in the early stages of the plant of *P. Wrayi* would show the same characters as shown in the leaflets described under *P. dubius*.

There is some error in the remarks made by Ridley (1925) about his confusing this species with *P. Wrayi*; for previously Ridley (1907) had confused *P. dubius* and *P. Wrayi* with *P. geminiflorus*.

Plectocomiopsis Corneri Furtado sp. nov. (Fig. 13).

Ab omnibus hujus generis speciebus adhuc cognitis differt: frondium vaginis inermibus vel secus dorsum tantum armatis, spinis vaginalibus 1-5, per seriem verticalem

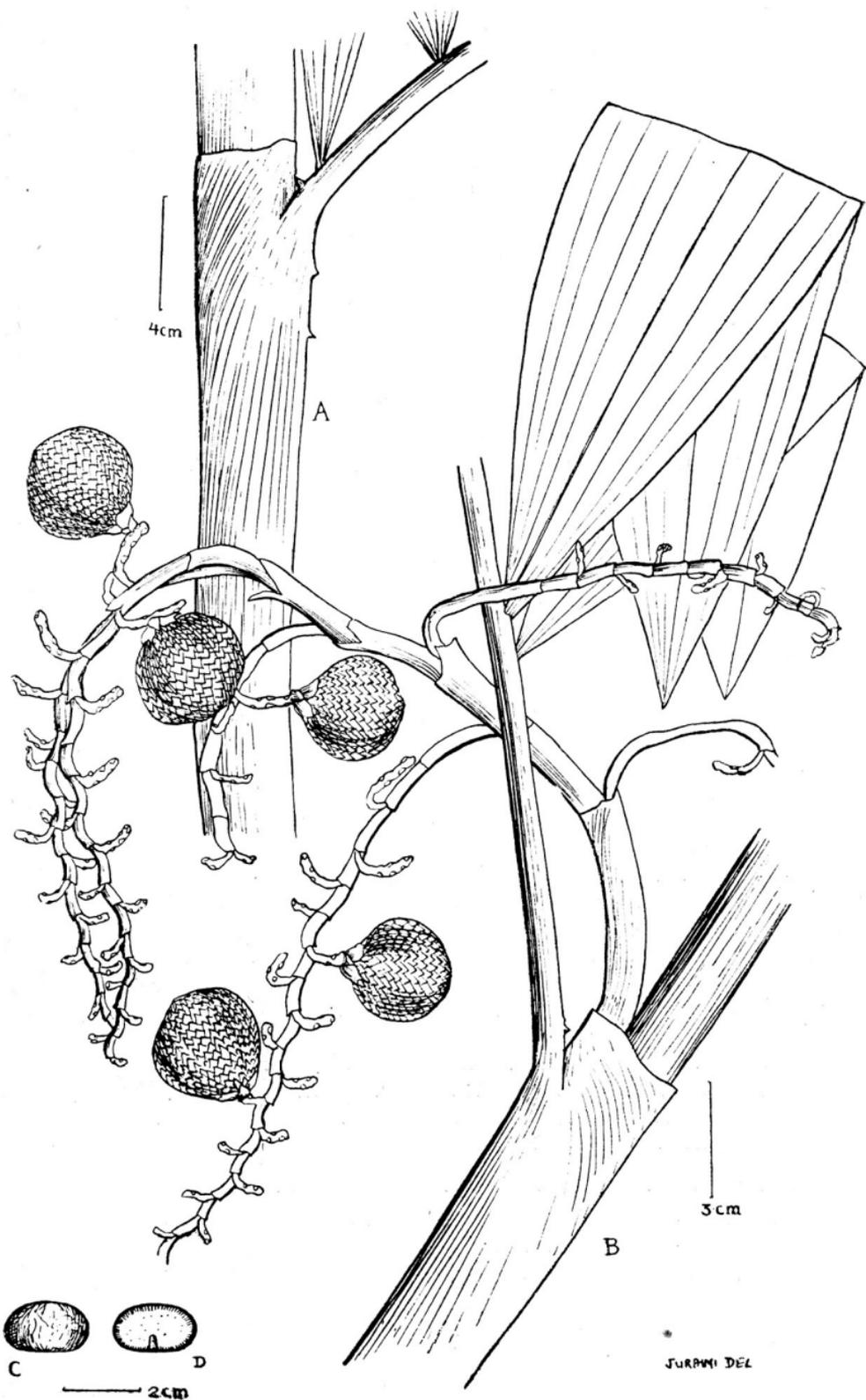


Fig. 13. *Plectocomiopsis Corneri* (Holotypus: Corner 30,562).

A, Fragmentum caudicis, cum petiolo, vagina frondis, et ocrea. B, Fragmentum superius caudicis cum petiolo longiore et spadice fructiferenti. C, Semen integrum. D, Semen verticaliter discissum.

unicam dispositis; ocreis 2-3.5 cm. longis tubularibus, truncatis, inermibus; foliolis latis elliptico-lanceolatis; spiculis vel ramulis tertiariis 1-2 cm. longis, rarissime usque 4 cm. longis; fructus squamis per series verticales 31-35 dispositis.

Caulis soboliferus, 30 m. usque longus, scandens, cum vaginis 3-4 cm. in diam. *Vaginae* frondium in juventute furfuraceae, dein glabrae, longitudinaliter striatae, inermes vel infra petiolum secus dorsum per seriem unicam spinis 1-5 rigidis, 1-1.5 cm. longis, reflexis, basi tumescentibus, armatae. *Ocrea* 2-3.5 cm. longa, coriacea, striis obliquis validis et striis verticalibus tenuissimis praedita, inermis, tubularis, fere horizontaliter truncata. *Fronde*s magni; petioli in dimensione variabiles, in frondibus basin caulis versus et apud basin inflorescentiae 10-15 cm. longi, alteri breviores 6 cm. usque longi, vel obsoleti, basi spinis utrinsecus 1-2 rigidis, 5-10 mm. longis, armati; rachidi basin versus inermes, apicem versus unguibus in dorso 2-3-natis, utrinsecus foliolis 5-9 praediti, in cirrum unguiculatum terminati. *Foliola* alternantia, lanceolato-elliptica, utrinque fere pariter angustata, apice acuta, basi nonnihil oblique plicato-acuta, utrinque et secus margines inermia, supra nitida, infra opaca pallidiora, unicosata, nervis primariis sub-primariisque 15-17 longitudinaliter percursa, 25-30 cm. longa, 6.5-8.5 cm. lata. *Inflorescentia* feminea terminalis, paniculata, ramis primariis in frondium axillis reductorum orientibus; ramuli secundarii in spatharum axillis primariarum siti, spathas secundarias et in earum axillis ramulos tertiarios vel spicas 1-4 cm. longos gerentes; spathae secundariae tertiariaeque, spathellae et involucri furfuracei puberuli; flores feminei ignoti. *Perianthium fructiferum* subpedicellatum; calyx callosus, 3-lobatus; corolla 3-partita calyce duplo longior; segmenta staminodialia inter corollae lobos visibilia. *Fructus* late-fusiformis, 30 mm. altus, 22-25 mm. in diam., squamis cinnamomeis, secus margines albescentibus scariosis, per series verticales 31-35 dispositis; semen globoso-cylindricum, crassum, 20 mm. latus, 5-7 mm. altus; embryo basilaris; albumen homogenum.

Stems in a rosette, each about 30 m. long, climbing, with sheaths 3-4 cm. in diam. *Leaf-sheaths* when young covered with tobacco coloured scurf, later glabrous, striate longitudinally, completely unarmed or sometimes armed with 1-5 short rigid, reflexed spines arranged in one row below the petiole. *Ocrea* coriaceous like the sheath, 2-3.5 cm. long, tubular, unarmed, almost horizontally truncate, striate, the oblique striae being large and conspicuous and the vertical ones being minute. *Leaves* large, long cirriferous; petiole variable in dimensions, in leaves produced at the base of the stem and at the base of the inflorescence 10-15 cm. long, in other leaves much smaller or obsolete, armed laterally towards the base with one or two pairs of short rigid spines 5-10 mm. long; rachis unarmed towards the base, but armed otherwise with 2-3-nate claws on the dorsum, provided with 5-9 leaflets on each side. *Leaflets* alternate, lanceolate elliptic, narrowed equally on both sides, acute at both ends, plicate at base, unarmed on both surfaces and on margins, 25-30 cm. long 6.5-8.5 cm. broad, provided with one primary and with 14-16 sub-primary nerves, the upper surface shining, the lower paler and dull. *Female inflorescence* a terminal panicle with primary branches issuing each from the mouth of the axil of a

reduced leaves; the primary spathes glabrous, 2-3.5 cm. long, closely sheathing, truncate, striate; secondary branches in axils of the primary spathes, 10-20 cm. long; secondary spathes 7-10 mm. long, closely sheathing, slightly ligulate on one side, furfuraceous, puberulous; the tertiary branches (spikelets) 1-2 cm. long, occasionally longer at the base of the secondary branches, arising slightly above the apex of secondary spathe, having flowers arranged in two series; spathe tubular, puberulo-furfuraceous; involucre invisible, sunk above the mouth of the spathe; involucre one on each involucrephore, shallow, discoid with irregular margins, furfuraceous; flowers not seen. *Fruiting perianth* sub-pedicelliform; calyx callous at base, 3-lobed; corolla 3-partite, twice as long as the calyx; the tips of the staminodal lobes visible between the corolla lobes. *Fruit* broadly fusiform, almost equally narrowed towards both ends, from the middle, 30 mm. long, 22-25 mm. in diam.; the scales disposed in 31-35 vertical series, cinnamon brown in colour, with whitish scarious margins; seed globose-cylindrical, flattened on both sides, 20 mm. broad, 5-7 mm. thick; embryo seated in the centre at base; albumen homogeneous with no chalazal cavity.

MALAYA: *Kemaman*, Sungai Nipah (Corner 30,562 sub nom. vern. *Rotan Geylang Telor*).

In this specimen there is only one leaf which has an almost obsolete petiole having two lateral spines at its base; the other leaves have longer petioles. The very long spikelet that occurs at the base of the secondary branch bears occasionally a conspicuous involucrephore at base with two or three flowers; obviously this is an abbreviated quarter-branch.

Corner records that this species occurs frequently at the sides of rivers and streams, and notes the following morphological characters for this species;:

'Leaves (without whip) 1-1.5 m. long, those of old stem more or less sessile, those of the younger stem with a petiole up to 15 cm. long; whip (cirrus) 1-1.5 m. long. Leaflets 5-9 pairs, alternate. Sheaths and rachis white powdery. The top of each sheath (above petiole) and the base of the petiole bright ochre, especially on young stems. Leaflets sage-green. The spines on rachis and sheath pale yellow ochre becoming deep brownish ochre; sheaths with a single row of 1-5 spines extending along it and on the base of petiole; some sheaths whether on young or old stem, without any spines. Petiole with 1-2 pairs of lateral spines, or no spines at all on the upper sessile leaves.

'A very fine very easily recognized species from the smooth, almost spineless, pale green sheaths with abrupt "circumscissile" bright ochraceous top; stems up to 30 m. long, several from one rosette.'