

the spines of the sheaths are distinctly seriate, the pinnæ neither plicate, nor tomentose underneath.

It comes close to the preceding section, its young spadices having a strong resemblance to those of *C. Draco*. The mature spadices again resemble to some extent those of *C. Hystrix*, and there is moreover a tendency in the spathes to be deciduous.

35. (25.) *C. Mastersianus*, (n. sp.) vaginarum spinis plano-subulatis sub-deflexis aculeis irregularibus interspersis, petioli partis nudæ dorsalibus et marginalibus aculeis interspersis, aculeis partis pinniferæ dorsalibus cum vel absque marginalibus, pinnis æquidistantibus linearibus (long. 13-uncialibus lat. 7-linealibus) cirrhoso-acuminatis, supra carina centrali et venula laterali utrinque setigera subtus vena centrali setulosa, spadice (flagellifero) aculeato masculo supra-decomposito, spathis planis coriaceis extus glaucis infima bicarinata secus carinas aculeata, spicis fæmineis distantibus patentibus, floribus conicis, corolla calyce paullo-longiore, fructibus pisiformibus cuspidato-rostratis (albidis), albumine sub-æquabili.

HAB.—Assam, No. 1201, of my Assam collections. *Soon-dee-bet* of the Assamese. The smallest *bet* of Assam; Major Jenkins.

DESCR.*—*Stem* with the sheaths about half an inch in diameter. *Sheaths* armed with stout flat spines, somewhat deflexed, concave underneath, arising from a large sub-conical base, among these, except perhaps towards the apex of the sheaths, occur smaller prickles very irregular in size. *Ligula* very large, coriaceous. *Petiole* a good deal swollen at its insertion; lower naked part $3\frac{1}{2}$ -4 inches long, plano-convex, armed on the centre of the under face with a row of distant spines like those of the sheaths but smaller, along the margins with

* Complete specimens of the female plant in flower and fruit, and portion of a male spadix.

still smaller ones interspersed with small prickles. Pinniferous part (which is 3-4 feet long) armed with stout clawed prickles along the centre of the under face, a few others being added about the margins. *Pinnæ* equidistant, linear, about thirteen inches long, seven lines broad, circhoso-acuminate, 1-carinate above; carina and a lateral vein on either side bristly towards the apex, midvein of the under surface with a few smaller bristles: margins rough with minute bristle teeth.

Male Spadix supra-decompound, more slender than the female; Branches a span long. *Spathes* more membranous, especially about the limbs. *Spikes* scarcely more than an inch long, slender, very flexuose, spreading or recurved, sometimes scorpioid, arising from a cartilaginous base opposite the ends of their spathes. *Bractea* with an acute spreading limb. *Cup* very shallow, almost wanting anticously, posticously broadly emarginate and sub-bicardate.

Flowers oblong-ovate, exactly distichous. *Calyx* with a broad cartilaginous base, divided to the middle into three broad rather acute segments. *Corolla* about twice as long, in bud ovate-conical, divided almost to the attenuate base into three lanceolate-ovate segments. *Stamina* shortly monadelphous; *filaments* (free) subulate, about half the length of the petals; *anthers* ovate-sagittate, yellow. Rudiment of the *Pistillum* large, of three oblong bodies like abortive carpel leaves.

Female spadix 5-6 feet long, decompound, nodding. *Peduncle* adnate to the next sheath, plano-convex, armed on the convex face, chiefly along centre, with broad hooked prickles, along the edges with spreading subulate middling sized spines, the armature is continued above this in the shape of hooked prickles which gradually encroach on the surface of the peduncle, so that the apex has the whole surface armed. A linear, coriaceous, entire or split *spathe*, brown inside, whitish outside, at the base of each branch; the lowest about a foot long, bicardate, carina armed except towards the apex with stoutish prickles, subulate from an oblique bulbous base. Remaining spathes diminishing in size gradually, all unarmed, sometimes split and lacerrated, subsequently the tubular parts alone remain. *Branches* of the spadix longer a good deal than the internodes, bearing many filiform spreading, flexuose spikes, 2-4 inches in length, surrounded at the cartilaginous base by a whitish scale-shaped annular bracte.

Flowers distichous, rather distant, one at each flexure, of the shape of a sugar loaf, small, suffulted by a small annular scale-shaped bracte, and two minute bracteoles. *Calyx* oblong, conical, of a thick substance at the base, with three short sub-cordate mucronate teeth with whitish membranous margins. *Corolla* oblong-ovate, a little longer than the calyx, divided nearly to the middle; segments erect rather obtuse. *Stamina* 6; *filaments* not adnate to the corolla, united into a cup surrounding the lower part of the ovarium, (free) very short; *anthers* ovate-sagittate, effete. *Ovarium* oblong-obovate, smooth at the base, where it is 3-celled, otherwise covered with scales. *Style* (common) scarcely any, the branches revolute from the base, subulate, stigmatose inside. *Ovula* solitary.

Fruits very numerous, of the size of a pea, surrounded at the base by the perianth, beaked by the hard persistent base of the style. *Scales* very numerous, minute, whitish with fuscous margins and points, which are incised. *Seed* baccate, erect, roundish-placentiform. *Tegument* thin; pulp gelatinous, thick opposite the *chalaza*, and in a less degree on the opposite face. *Raphe* of two divergent whitish branches, terminating about the middle of the ventral face of the seed. *Albumen* cartilaginous, solid, surface slightly unequal; opposite the *chalaza* is a shallow foveola, and a smaller and shallower one on the opposite face: on a long section it appears pulley-shaped. *Embyo* basilar, conical.

This appears to be a very distinct species, especially in its inflorescence. It has considerable affinities with *Calamus tenuis*, especially in the female spikes and flowers. I have dedicated it to my friend Mr. Masters, who is now investigating the Flora of Assam with great success.

36. (26) *C. ramosissimus*, (n. sp.) spinis — pinnis — spadicis supra-decompositi inermis pedunculo infra spathas ancipiti sursum teretiusculo areolato, spathis (terminalibus) membranaceis scaphiformibus, spicis gracillimis, floribus (masculis) numerosissimis, corolla calyce oblongo breviter tridentato duplo fere longiore.

HAB.—Uncertain.