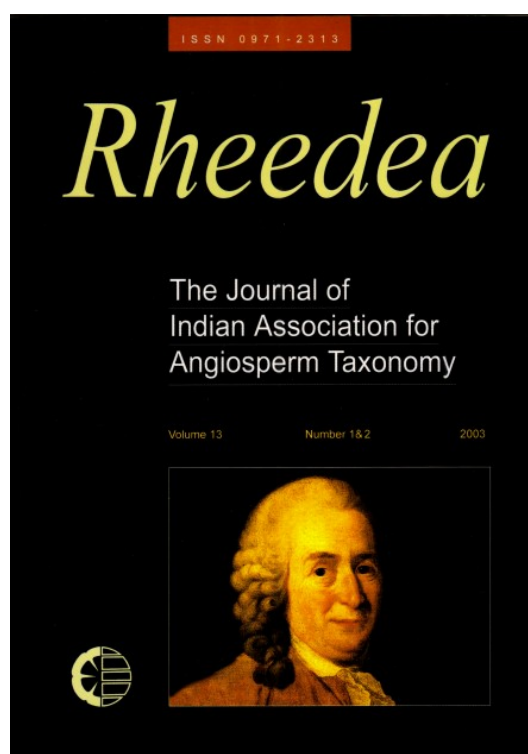




## Report on Three *Calamus* Species (Arecaceae) New to Kerala, India

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## Report on Three *Calamus* Species (Arecaceae) New to Kerala, India

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### Abstract

*Calamus karnatakensis* Renuka & Lakshmana, *Calamus lakshmana* Renuka and *Calamus lacciferus* Lakshmana & Renuka described earlier from Karnataka are reported from the forests of Kerala. Extended distribution of these three taxa enhances total *Calamus* species occurring in Kerala from 15 to 18 in number.

**Key words:** Three *Calamus* species, Karnataka, Extended distribution, Kerala

### Introduction

Kerala Forests harboured fifteen species of *Calamus* (Renuka, 2000; Anto *et al.*, 2001). Recently the authors located three more species *viz.*: *Calamus karnatakensis* Renuka & Lakshmana, *Calamus lakshmana* Renuka and *Calamus lacciferus* Lakshmana & Renuka as occurring in the forests of Kerala. This paper provides short descriptions and other details of these species.

***Calamus karnatakensis*** Renuka & Lakshmana, RIC Bull. 9: 10.1990; Renuka, Rat. Western Ghats 33. Pl.13.1992; Lakshmana, Rat. South India 46. 1993. **Fig. 1a.**

*High climbing, clustering rattan. Stem* 35 m or more long, upto 3 cm (with sheath) and upto 2 cm (without sheath) in diameter. *Leaves* ecirrate, 1.5 m long; leaf sheath brown tomentose when young, yellow when mature, densely armed with spines, spines 2-2.5 cm long, often forming half spiral, pointing upwards, spines at mouth of the sheath upto 4 cm long; knee conspicuous, wrinkled, yellowish; ocrea upto 6 cm long, with short spines; petiole upto 30 cm long, armed with brown spines, spines upto 1 cm long; rachis upto 1.8 cm wide, lateral side of the rachis with longer spines, spines upto 3 cm long, spines on ventral side 1 cm long, pointing upwards; leaflets regular, 50 x 2.5 cm, 3-veined, veins and margins spinulose, terminal pair basely united. *Inflorescence* long, flagellate; partial inflorescences many, primary and secondary sheath compact when young; split when mature, often becoming laminar, secondary sheaths

funnel shaped, spinulose; rachillae upto 15 cm long, involucrophorum sessile, arising from within the sheath, involucre cupular and sessile. *Fruits* globose, 8 mm across, scales in 19 rows, straw yellow with chesnut-brown margins, pale violet when ripe; endosperm not ruminant.

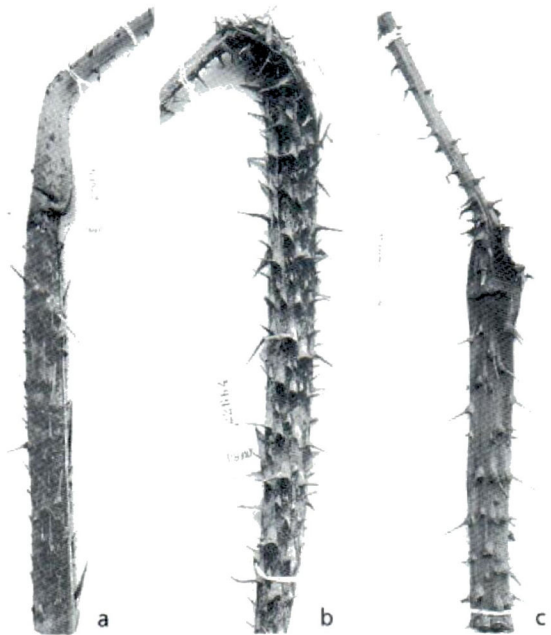


Figure 1. Leaf sheaths: a. *Calamus karnatakensis*; b. *C. lakshmana*; c. *C. lacciferus*

**Flowering & Fruiting:** October-November; April-May.

**Local Names:** Kannikkodi (Malayalam), Sukkubeth (Kannada)

**Specimens Examined:** Kerala, Malappuram district: New Amarambalam Forest Division, Kidakkamala, *Sreekumar & Rangan* 22666 (KFRI). Karnataka: Kargal, *Renuka* 4068,4069 (KFRI), Agumbe, *Renuka* 4076 (KFRI), Thalakkaveri, *Renuka* 4088 (KFRI).

**Note:** This species was originally described from Agumbe and Thalakkaveri in Karnataka.

***Calamus lakshmanae*** Renuka, J. Econ. Tax. Bot., 14: 701.1990; Renuka, Rat. Western Ghats 37. pl. 15. 1992; Lakshmana, Rat. South India 48. 1993. Fig. 1b.

**Clustering, high climbing rattan.** Stem 2-2.5 cm (with sheath) and 1 cm (without sheath) in diameter. *Leaves* ecirrate, 1.65 m long; leaf sheath yellowish green to green, densely armed with yellowish bulbous based spines, spines upto 1 cm long, pointing horizontally or upwards; distal younger sheath with lesser spines and with brown markings; knee present; petiole 20 cm long, armed with small curved spines; leaflets regular, linear-lanceolate, tip not ciliate, 45 x 2 cm, terminal leaflets 20 x 1 cm, 3 veined, lateral veins ciliated on dorsal surface, midvein ciliated on ventral surface, margin spinulose. **Inflorescence** long, pendulous; primary sheath tightly sheathing with short spines; partial inflorescence to 60 cm long, attached above the mouth of the sheath; secondary sheath tubular - infundibuliform, tightly sheathing, upto 4 cm long, narrow at base and flat on inner side, with 3-4 small prickles in distal region, rachillae upto 12 cm long; involucrophorum sessile; involucre cup - shaped; fruiting perianth slightly callous at its base. **Fruit** ovate, 1 x 0.7 cm, scales in 26 vertical rows, bright green when young; channeled along the middle, endosperm ruminant.

**Local names:** Man churel (Malayalam), Halubetha (Kannada)

**Flowering & Fruiting:** October - November; March - April.

**Specimens Examined:** Kerala, Malappuram district: New Amarambalam Forest division, Kidakkamala, *Sreekumar & Rangan* 22664 (KFRI); Kollam district: Shenduruni WLS, Rosemala: *Sreekumar & Rangan* 22470 (KFRI), Makkut, *Renuka* 4086 (KFRI).

**Note:** This species was described as a new taxon from Makkut in Karnataka.

***Calamus lacciferus*** Lakshmana & Renuka, J. Econ. Tax. Bot., 14: 705.1990; Renuka, Rat. Western Ghats 35. pl. 14. 1992; Lakshmana, Rat. South India 47. 1993.

Fig. 1c .

**High climbing, cluster forming rattan.** Stem thin 0.5-0.8 cm in diameter at base, getting thicker upwards, 4 cm (with sheath) and upto 1.5 cm (without sheath) in diameter distally, basal nodes producing new shoots. *Leaves* ecirrate, to 2-2.5 m long; sheath green basely and grayish green distally, sparingly spiny, bulbous based spines 0.5-1 cm long; knee conspicuous, devoid of spines; petiole 30-40 cm long, armed with short spines, rachis with recurved spines beneath, exuding milky latex when cut; leaflets regular, linear lanceolate, 60 x 3 cm, tip ciliate, terminal leaflets 20 x 1.2 cm, slightly united at base, mid vein ciliated dorsally, lateral veins ciliated ventrally on the upper half. **Inflorescence** long, flagellate; primary sheath tubular, tightly sheathing, spiny; partial inflorescence upto 15 cm long, secondary sheaths tubular, inflated at mouth; rachillae upto 5-6 cm long, arched and recurved, upper ones gradually becoming shorter to 1 cm long, involucrophorum stalked; involucre disc shaped; fruiting perianth pedicellate. **Fruits** rounded, 2cm in diameter; scales in 19 vertical rows, yellow with brown boarder, shiny, deeply channeled in the middle; endosperm ruminant.

**Local names:** Pal chural (Malayalam), Neerubetha (Kannada)

**Flowering & Fruiting:** November - December; May - June

**Specimens Examined:** Kerala, Malappuram district: New Amarambalam Forest division, Kidakkamala, *Sreekumar & Rangan* 22665 (KFRI); Karnataka: Kenganahonda, *Renuka* 4078 (KFRI), Agumbe, *Renuka* 4096 (KFRI).

**Note:** This species was described for the first time from Karnataka.

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