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Notes on Recent Palm Species and Records from Peninsular Thailand

LIM CHONG KEAT
Palm Search Malaysia Project, 215 Macalister Road, 10450 Penang, Malaysia

Although the main focus of the Palm Search Malaysia (PSM) project has been on new and endangered taxa within Peninsular Malaysia, the study needs to encompass the Thai parts of the biodomain, with further extensions to Sumatra and Borneo for a more thorough review of certain dominant genera. My own interest and priority have been on *Areca*, *Iguanura*, *Nenga*, and *Pinanga*. As these are common (as are *Licuala* and other palms) to Southern or Peninsular Thailand and Malaya, the search continues there, transcending geographical boundaries. Indeed the herbarium collections at SING, K, and KEP contain items from the adjacent areas, some collected when Northern Malaya was still part of Thailand, such as on Ridley's expeditions to Kedah, Langkawi, and the Adang islands in 1910 and 1911, which yielded *Pinanga adangensis* among other species. It becomes a moot point whether or not to include this within Malayan flora, on a strict geographical basis, as Pulau Adang and Pulau Rawi remain within Thailand; as it happens, the taxon is also quite common on Pulau Langkawi.

In 1972, Whitmore made several collections of palms from Southern Thailand, including *Iguanura* and *Pinanga*, and in 1978, Ruth Kiew extended her studies on the genus *Iguanura* with notes on new species and records based on specimens at Kew (K) (Kiew 1978). My revision of the same genus within Peninsular Malaysia (Lim 1996), and also ongoing work on *Pinanga* had also led me to visit Narathiwat, Betong, Satun, Phuket, and Khao Sok since 1994, providing useful field experience that would help in determining the many specimens that remain unidentified among the exsiccatae (including some collected by the indefatigable Kerr during the early decades of this century) at K, Bangkok Herbarium at Kasetsart University (BK), and the herbarium of the Royal Forest Department, Bangkok (BKF), as recent visits have revealed. Clearly, more cross-referencing between the herbaria in Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore would be beneficial in identifying new or suspected new taxa, in addition to more field collections, especially for genera not adequately represented.

In May and September 1997, Don Hodel published 18 new species from Thailand in *The Palm Journal*, the magazine of the Southern California Chapter of the International Palm Society (Hodel 1997*a*, *b*), including two *Areca*, four *Iguanura*, seven *Licuala*, three *Pinanga*, one *Rhapis*, and one *Salacca*, all at species rank; there may well be others in the pipeline, including a new *Wallichia*. His collections came from Narathiwat, Betong, Satun, Phangnga, Takua Pa (Khao Sok), Pattalung, and Rayong, all but one from Peninsular Thailand, thus of particular interest to Malaysian taxonomy. The *Licuala* species could usefully be compared with their southern relatives, as there has been a recent revision of the genus in Peninsular Malaysia by Dr. Saw Leng Guan of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) (Saw 1997) and one would look forward to observations on the new finds by him and others such as Anders Barfod, who have been working on this genus. I will direct my comments at the *Areca*, *Iguanura*, and *Pinanga* species found in Peninsular Thailand, offering supplementary notes and proposing some positive revisions and new taxa.

Hodel was apparently commissioned to produce a book on the palms and cycads of Thailand by the fervent enthusiast and generous benefactor Kampon Tansacha, with the laudable intention of publication in time for the Biennial Conference of the International Palm Society to be held in Thailand in September 1998. The publication of some of his findings in advance, perhaps in haste, does, however, serve a purpose in arousing constructive responses, as will hopeful-

ly be seen in this paper. It is also desirable that essential cross-checks be made, especially with regional researchers, which will help to avoid superfluous naming of taxa already known. Indeed, a book on the palm flora of Thailand is long overdue; it would nevertheless benefit by more contributions and cooperation towards the enhancement of botanical information.

ARECA

ARECA RECURVATA

The author noted the strong affinity to *A. latiloba* (and to "*A. pumila,*" which is, however, a synonym of *Nenga pumila*), which has apparently been poorly represented in the herbaria in Thailand. Other collections at K, SING, and KEP, however, have many specimens displaying the range of *A. latiloba* forms, and field experience of this species confirms that it is quite often seen with broad or narrow leaflets, a common variation in character. I am also dubious about the characteristic of recurved rachillae—the specimen at BK does not seem to verify this—as being distinct from observable variants of *A. latiloba* inflorescence. In view of recent concern over confusing taxonomic comings and goings, it seems necessary to make early redeterminations to minimize nomenclatural pollution! *A. recurvata* is indeed the same taxon that Ridley described quite a long time ago, and I propose to reduce it to synonymy accordingly:

Areca latiloba Ridl., Flora Mal. Pen. 5: 2 (1925). *Areca recurvata* D. Hodel, The Palm Journal 134: 28–29 (1997), **synon. nov.**

ARECA BIFARIA

This striking *Areca* would appear to be a new record for Thailand, collected from southwest of Narathiwat. Its location can thus be related with the areas in Kelantan and N. Perak where *A. tunku* is found; the species was also discovered earlier by John Dransfield in Sumatra. Its inflorescence is unique and unmistakable from those of other Malayan *Areca*. I have no doubt that these are the same taxon, and reduce it to synonymy:

Areca tunku J. Dransf. C.K. Lim, Principes Vol. 36: 79–83 (1992).

Areca bifaria D. Hodel, The Palm Journal 136: 7 (1997), **synon. nov.**

IGUANURA

IGUANURA MULTIFIDA

This form was collected from the Betong range, growing sympatrically with *I. wallichiana* and the other new Hodel taxon, *I. divergens*. The author describes the fruit as green to pinkish (unripe), not dissimilar to those of *I. wallichiana*; the taxon is thus not *I. wallichiana* var. *rosea*. There is surely an error in sizing the fruit at "18–8 mm"; the herbarium specimen is 10–12 mm long. This is trivial, but the acceptance of narrower pinnae as a distinguishing character is questionable. As with *A. latiloba, I. wallichiana* is also frequently found with variable leaflet widths. There are, of course, other taxa with variable leaflets, and *I. diffusa* Becc. has characteristically very narrow, often unicostate pinnae. I would consider Hodel's species a form of *Iguanura wallichiana* and reduce it to synonymy:

Iguanura wallichiana (Wall. ex Mart.) J.D. Hooker var. **wallichiana,** Fl. Brit. Ind. 6: 416 (1892).

Iguanura multifida D. Hodel, The Palm Journal 136: 8 (1997). **synon. nov.**

IGUANURA SPECIOSA

This clustering palmlet is indeed an interesting and beautiful addition to the firmament of the *I. polymorpha* group, likely to attract considerable horticultural fancy. It had been collected previously by Llewelyn Williams and Smitinand, 17236 K, BK(5840), in 1950, Charoenpai & Larsen, 4032 K, in 1970, and Smith & Sumawong, GC103 K, in 1986. My own field observations and collections in 1994 serve to establish its distinction from *I. parvula* Becc., but also to confirm an inescapable similarity with *I. polymorpha* in inflorescence and habit; indeed these grew together in several colonies at Narathiwat. It appears to be localized and endemic, and has not been found south of the border. In cultivation, as at Nong Nooch, many of the plants are luxuriant and gorgeous; with the aid of garden nutrients, many wild species become literally larger than life or than in their natural habitat. It is indeed almost irresistibly tempting to justify species status, and Hodel himself presaged and alluded to other alternative inclinations to include it within *I. polymorpha*, while providing copious descriptions to establish the differ-

ences, which nevertheless further confirm the same characters as for *I. polymorpha* (other than the undivided leaf) with its range of variations. In Malaysia, this entire-leaved form has also been seen sympatrically with the usual pinnate ones, as collected by Dransfield & Saw (JD7620, K, KEP) at Ulu Besut, Terengganu. I would reduce the new taxon in rank as a variety, and given the options in taxonomy, name it under *Iguanura polymorpha* Becc. with an epithet that identifies the undivided leaves. Hodel's diagnosis serves the determination at this rank, and his specimen 1628 at BK as the holotype for the var. nov.; other reference collections have been mentioned above. This is undoubtedly a palm (together with other related *Iguanura* taxa) that may need urgent and enhanced protection in the wild, for obvious reasons.

Iguanura polymorpha Becc. var. **integra** C.K. Lim **var. nov.** *I. speciosa* D. Hodel, The Palm Journal 134: 29–30 (1997), **synon. nov.** Type: *D.R. Hodel et al.* 1628 (Holotype BK).

IGUANURA DIVERGENS

Iguanura divergens D. Hodel, The Palm Journal 136: 7–8 (1997).

This is a handsome new taxon with clustering stems, which may provide clues about transformations between the *wallichiana* and *polymorpha* types in the genus, if speculations may be countenanced; the branched rachillae are indeed reminiscent of *I. wallichiana*, whereas the trapezoidal leaflets of the pinnae are clearly similar to larger forms of *I. polymorpha*. Hodel describes the leaves as marcescent, and the inflorescences as interfoliar, and states that the stems are apparently quite robust, up to 3.5 cm in diameter, reaching to 3 m in height. Regrettably no fruit had been collected; this is unfortunate, as floral features tend to be indistinguishable in *Iguanura*. I viewed the holotype at BK, and would have liked to see more specimens. Initially I thought that there might well be a connection with the new species that I have described, *I. perdana*, from Perak, which is, however, usually solitary, but sometimes occurs with basal growths. After viewing two fine live specimens cultivated at Nong Nooch, I must note certain discrepancies from Hodel's descriptions: the leaf sheaths abscise, revealing prominently infrafoliar inflorescences, some growing a mere 10–25 cm above the base of the stems (see Fig. 1); there were of course others interfoliar, awaiting leaf abscission. Their stems were ca. 2 cm in diameter, and were not as robust as mentioned by Hodel for his holotype. Inescapably, I was reminded of the giant forms of *I. polymorpha* from Upper Belum in Perak, which also had long nine-branched inflorescences. I believe that a further collection and examination of the infructescence and drupes are needed to confirm this new taxon.

IGUANURA TENUIS

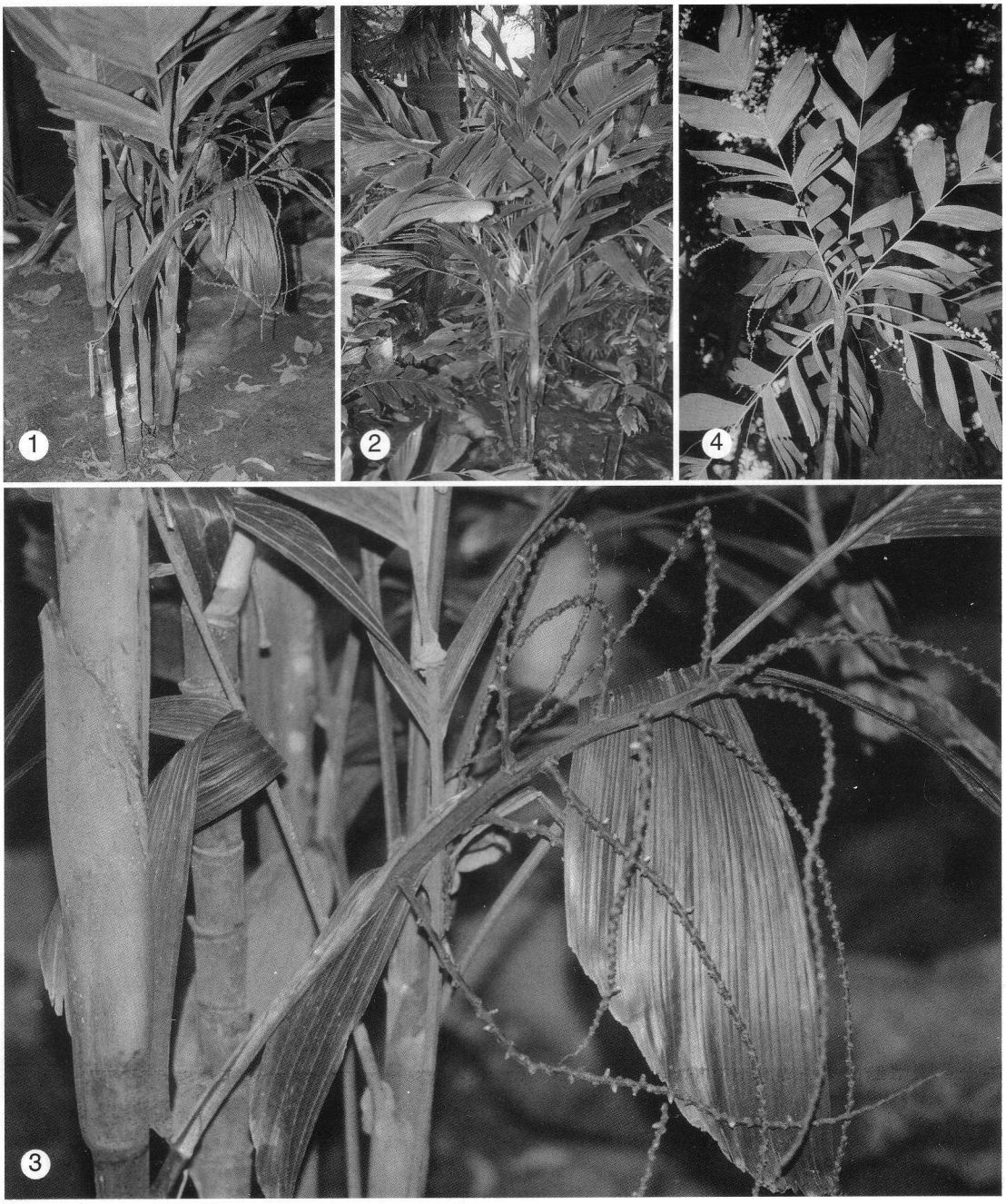
Iguanura tenuis Hodel, The Palm Journal 136: 11 (1997).

This is another new species that has been recognized from its finely branched inflorescence, collected from Takua Pa, near Khao Sok. It has been described as clustering, but is otherwise similar to the solitary palmlet commonly seen at the nature reserve. This difference in habit is important within this genus, as separate forms could be distinguished and justified by this character. On the basis of Hodel's evidence that *I. tenuis* is caespitose, I propose to recognize another solitary taxon at varietal rank, to be named *Iguanura tenuis* var. *khaosokensis* (see below). As mentioned, the species has pinnae similar to *I. polymorpha*, but with the branched inflorescences, reminiscent of elegant forms of *I. wallichiana*, interfoliar—as the sheaths do not peal off as neatly as with the regular *polymorpha* types, and may persist and shred, nevertheless leaving clean stems. In passing, it might be mentioned that between 1994 and late 1997, the understory palm population at Khao Sok appears to have declined significantly. Along the main trails, *Iguanura* numbers seem to have reduced to a quarter, and likewise for the *Pinanga* and *Licuala* spp. The only two *Wallichia* specimens that I had noted previously are also no longer to be seen.

Iguanura tenuis Hodel var. **khaosokensis** C.K. Lim **var. nov.**

A varietate typica habitu solitario bene distincta. Typus: Thailand, Surat Thani, Khao Sok, 1997, C.K. Lim H1993 (holotypus BKF, isotypus KEP).

Hodel's descriptions of the species are fully applicable to the variety, which I would recognize on the important difference of its solitary



1. *Iguanura divergens,* cultivated at Nong Nooch. 2. *Iguanura divergens,* cultivated at Nong Nooch. 3. *Iguanura divergens,* detail of inflorescence. 4. *Iguanura tenuis* var. *khaosokensis,* one of many at Khao Sok, all with solitary stems and interfoliar inflorescences.

habit (see Fig. 2), after observing the sizeable population at Khao Sok. This character in *Iguanura* is indeed distinct, as observed in other species, and is quite different from forms of stems with basal suckers or forms that are caespitose; of course adjacent seedlings growing entwined could give a false impression. The new variety has been observed growing to 2 m and sometimes fruiting at less than 1 m. The leaf sheaths may shred rather than fall off neatly; this aspect is unlike those in the regular *polymorpha* group in Malaysia and accounts for the interfoliar inflorescences. The trapezoidal pinnae are indistinguishable from the latter. It should be noted that specimens in cultivation can be quite robust, and branched inflorescences become less delicate or filiform and quite similar to those of *I. wallichiana* (as in specimens of "*I. wallichiana* var. *minor*"). Floral buds were noted to be yellow in color, and the drupes are similar to *I. polymorpha,* often ovoid and slightly curved, ripening from white to pink and black. The epithet helps to honor one of the geographic centers of this variety.

Distribution: Thailand, Surat Thani, Khao Sok, Takua Pa. Habitat: Limestone hill forest, 100m and above. Locally not rare.

Type: Thailand, Surat Thani, Khao Sok, 1997, C.K. Lim H1993 (holotype BKF, isotype KEP).

Other collections seen: Surat Thani, (Pangnga) Takua Pa, 1968, *Beusekon & Phengklai* 706 BKF(47018); Takua Pa, 1972, *Larsen* 30884 (K); Bang Ta Khun, Ban Klong, 1986, *Smith & Sumawong* GC60 (K); Bang Klong Yee Chang, Klong Saeng, 1986, *Smith & Sumawong* GC62 (K); Khao Sok, 1994, *C.K. Lim* H1615 (KEP), H1724 (PSM Collection).

IGUANURA THALANGENSIS

Iguanura thalangensis C.K. Lim **sp. nov.**

I. tenuis affinis sed habitu solitario, inflorescentiisque spiciformibus vel bifurcatis differt. Typus: Thailand, Phuket, Khao Pra Taew, 1997, *C.K. Lim* H1995 (holotypus BKF, isotypus KEP).

Solitary, stilt-rooted, stem grey or brown, 1.5 cm diameter, erect to 2 m (fruiting from 50 cm height), leaves nine or more in crown, pinnate, 60 × 24 cm, with usually four pairs of leaflets, trapezoidal as in *I. polymorpha,* leaf sheaths brown shredding or abscising, internode 1–1.4 cm, inflorescences two or more usually interfoliar, spicate or bifurcating, sometimes to four, 20–30 cm long, fruit ovoid, white to pink unripe, similar in size to *I. belumensis.*

Distribution: Thailand, Phuket, Ranong, Chumpon. Habitat: Hill forests, 200 m and above. Locally not rare.

Type: Thailand, Phuket, Khao Pra Taew, 1997 C.K. Lim H1995 (holotype BKF, isotypus KEP)

Other specimens seen: Chumpon, Kao Num Sao, 1927, Kerr 12024 (BK) (24793); Ranong, Muang Len, 1966, *Hansen & Smitinand* 11960 (BKF) (37263); Khao Pra Mi, 1966, *Hansen & Smitinand* 11829 (BKF) (40006), 1972, *Larsen et al.* 30843 (K, BKF) (77436); Kaper, Khao Pawta Luangkaew, 1929, *Kerr* 16918 (K), 1973 Geesink and Santisuk 5147 (BKF) (56635), 1979 *Shimizu et al.* 26758 (BKF) (76638); Mueang Chon, 1987 *Niyondham et al.* 1436 (K); Phuket, Khao Pra Taew, 1994, *C.K. Lim* H1615 (KEP, PSM Collection), H1731 (PSM Collection).

The epithet refers to the location where I first observed the palm; Thalang was the earlier name for Phuket. The species is apparently quite widespread with several collections having been made from the Ranong area. It is probably not uncommon, but appears to be relatively rare in its type location at 200 m within a hill forest reserve, where *Pinanga patula* var. *merguensis* and another new species of *Pinanga* are also found.

The taxon is similar in habit and appearance to *I. tenuis* var. *khaosokensis,* with which it makes an interesting comparative pairing in inflorescence differences, in parallel with *I. geonomiformis* and *I. wallichiana,* with their spicate (or forking) and branching rachillae, respectively (see Figs. 3 and 4). The spicate stalks are often vertical; the inflorescences in both taxa are interfoliar and the leaf sheaths tend to shred rather than to abscise, but do not seem to be lingeringly marcescent as for *I. wallichiana.* The more profuse and infrafoliar infructescences of *I. belumensis* are quite different and recognizable from the *I. tenuis* variants. So far, this Malaysian relative has not been found in Thailand, and vice versa; the two Thai taxa are thus endemic within the national boundary.

An Interim Checklist of Iguanura Taxa in Peninsular Thailand

From viewing collections at BK, BKF, K, KEP, SING and with the benefit of recent field observations, I would list the following nine taxa (with those <u>not</u> found in Malaysia underlined):

I. wallichiana (Wall. ex Mart.) J.D. Hooker var. **wallichiana** *I. multifida* D. Hodel, **synon. nov.**
I. geonomiformis (Griff.) Mart.
I. polymorpha Becc. var. **polymorpha**
I. polymorpha Becc. var. **integra** C.K. Lim **var. nov.** *I. speciosa* D. Hodel, **synon. nov.**
I. bicornis Becc.
I. divergens D. Hodel
I. tenuis D. Hodel var. **tenuis**
I. tenuis D. Hodel var. **khaosokensis** C.K. Lim **var. nov.**
I. thalangensis C.K. Lim **sp. nov.**

The last listing by Ruth Kiew (1978) was based on the then new specimens at K. It included *I. wallichiana* var. *wallichiana*, *I. wallichiana* var. *malaccensis*, which I have since revised to *I. geonomiformis*, *I. polymorpha*, and *I. bicornis*. Several specimens determined as the first three may now be identifiable as *I. tenuis* var. *khaosokensis*, *I. thalangensis*, and *I. polymorpha* var. *integra*. As mentioned, *I. divergens* may require further comparisons with large forms of *I. polymorpha*. I also believe that it is surprising that *I. geonomiformis* has been found in that geographical area, as it is mainly a species from the southern part of Peninsular Malaysia.

PINANGA

PINANGA BOWIANA

This taxon has been described by its author as related to *P. auriculata* Becc. of Borneo, without quoting comparative evidence or specimens for consideration. It does require some bravery to cross the Sunda Shelf to correlate species in this genus; so far the general perception is that there are only three *Pinanga* taxa with known similarities in common to Borneo and Peninsular Malaysia. Even the ubiquitous *P. malaiana*, found also in Sumatra, has not been seen in Borneo. The case for transnational research is nevertheless urgent, but calls for considerable cooperation, especially by taxonomists working on the Flora of the Malesian region. The specimen Hodel deposited at BK has no fruit, but is clearly similar to the numerous collections of *Pinanga patula* Bl. at SING and KEP (and of course at FI, L, K and CAL) as identified by Beccari and Ridley. The taxon rediscovered by Hodel is commonly found throughout Peninsular Malaysia mainly along the eastern coast from Johore to Kelantan, distinctive (though not unique) with its sigmoidal, bicolor leaflets. In leaf form and habit, and when sterile, it resembles *P. patula* var. *merguensis* Becc. (which is a different proposition, as will be addressed in an ongoing study within the PSM program, which will further reexamine the Bornean relatives), and indeed many herbarium collections have sometimes mixed the two taxa. The latter is widespread along the western side of Peninsular Thailand, also at Phuket and Khao Sok (where it appears to be diminishing in population), and has recently been found also in Perlis, a new record for Malaysia. The fruit of var. *merguensis* are usually more profuse, and striking when ripening, in color a shiny claret before turning black. I have some familiarity with Hodel's taxon and its collection location in Narathiwat; it is indubitably the same as the Malaysian species, and will thus be reduced:

P. patula Bl., Rumphia 2: 86, t. 115; Ridley, Materials 2: 143 (1907).

Pinanga bowiana D. Hodel, The Palm Journal 134: 35 (1997), **synon. nov.**

PINANGA FRACTIFLEXA

Pinanga fractiflexa D. Hodel, The Palm Journal 136: 17 (1997).

I most gladly welcome this new determination, surprisingly overdue; apparently there have been few collections studied. This is the prominent clustering species seen at Khao Sok, with its distinctively long petioles and coriaceous leaves. The zig-zag rachillae are also diagnostic, and reminiscent of another new *Pinanga* species from Johore, due for publication. Hodel omits mention of the unripe fruit, which are bullet-shaped, turning ovoid and mammilate, beaked and shiny dark green before turning black. This new species and record for Thailand is also an endemic. As mentioned elsewhere, the population at the Reserve is diminishing, and an in situ propagation program (also for other threatened palms) would seem recommendable, as has been successfully undertaken for *Kerriodoxa* at Phuket.

PINANGA BADIA

Pinanga badia D. Hodel, The Palm Journal 136: 16–17 (1997).

This is another of the new *Pinanga* to be added to the growing list, again hardly known in previous collections. As Hodel mentions, the re-

5. *Iguanura tenuis* var. *khaosokensis*, detail of inflorescence.
6. *Iguanura tenuis* var. *khaosokensis*, leaves and inflorescence.

cent surge of efforts has been promoted by his sponsor Kampon Tansacha, with important field coverage by his collector Poonsak Vatcharakorn, providing fresh material for research and for horticultural development. It would indeed be useful for collection notes and data to be kept and made available, especially in areas threatened by deforestation. The new species was collected in Satun, where the Thale Ban Reserve offers scope for more botanical and conservation research; an estimate of its population would be useful. Coincidentally, over the last two years, as a new record for Malaysia, it has also been discovered near the border in the Mata Ayer Forest Reserve in Perlis, where so far very few clusters have been found. The palm has been observed to fruit when at less than 1.5 m height, and it is indeed most distinctive in the color of its drupes, ripening brownish pink, turning to black, with yellow rachillae.

PINANGA WATANAIANA

Pinanga watanaiana C. K. Lim **sp. nov.**

P. badia affinis sed foliis maculatis variegatis et inflorenscentiis viridis vel corallinis differt. Typus: Thailand, Phuket, Khao Pra Taew, 1979 *J. Dransfield & C. Boonab,* JD5424/BKF70343 (holotypus BKF, isotypus K)

Caespitose and clumping palmlet, stems greenish brown to 2.5 m, 1.5 cm diameter, with prominent internodal scars at 8–10 cm, leaves 6–8 in crown, pinnate (undivided in juveniles) to 70 cm, with 8–9 (to 13) pairs of leaflets, broader for the apicals, usually strikingly mottled (more so than in certain forms of *P. disticha*), sheaths 27 cm, yellow to brown forming crownshaft, inflorescences infrafoliar, 2–3 on nodes below, deflexed, sometimes erect rachillae green to coral red (distinct in color and usually longer than in *P. badia*) 2–4 branched 12–20 cm, peduncle to 3.5 cm, flowers not examined, fruit distichous, to 20 pairs, ovoid, beaked, 1 × 1.5 cm, green ripening scarlet to black.

Distribution: Endemic to Phuket. Habitat: hill forest, at 150 m and above, population localized, probably rare and endangered.

Type: Thailand, Phuket, Khao Pra Taew, 1979 *J. Dransfield & C. Boonab,* JD5424/BKF70343 (holotype BKF, isotype K).

Other specimens seen: Phuket, Khao Pra Taew, 1986, *Sumawong (& Smith?)* 9 (K), 1994 *C.K. Lim* H1614 (KEP), H1720, H1730 (PSM Collection), 1997, *C.K. Lim* H1994 (PSM Collection).

The clustering species is immediately recognizable from *P. badia* not only by the light-green mottle on the dark-green leaves, lighter on the underside, but also by the less numerous leaflets, and the yellow crownshaft, (see Figs. 5 and 6). The rachillae are normally green to coral, vs. yellow for *P. badia,* and the drupes green to scarlet and black, those of *P. badia* being brownish pink turning black.

This taxon has only been collected on a few occasions, but had been tentatively identified as probably related to *P. fruticans,* an elusive Ridley species, which he confused with specimens of *P. kuhlii,* his own original collection being most likely *P. scortechinii.* The new *Pinanga* has been named after Watana Sumawong, the eminent palm enthusiast and pioneer collector of Bangkok, who had himself collected it in 1986 at the same location. It has so far not been found elsewhere, and could be endangered because of its horticultural appeal.

7. *Iguanura thalangensis*, habit, showing bifurcating inflorescence. 8. *Iguanura thalangensis*, leaves, and spicate and bifurcating inflorescences.

An Interim Checklist of Pinanga Taxa in Peninsular Thailand

The following 14 taxa have been represented in the herbarium collections at BK, BKF, K, KEP, or SING:

P. malaiana (Mart.) Scheffer
P. adangensis Ridl.
P. scortechini Becc.
P. glaucescens Ridl.
P. disticha (Roxb.) Bl. ex H. Wendl.
P. simplicifrons (Miq.) Becc.
P. subintegra Ridl.
P. limosa Ridl.
P. patula Bl. var. **patula**
P. bowiana D. Hodel, **synon. nov.**
P. patula Bl. var. **merguensis** Becc.
P. riparia Ridl.
P. fractiflexa D. Hodel,
P. badia D. Hodel,
P. watanaiana C.K. Lim **sp. nov.**

Items underlined have not been found in Malaysia, and are thus endemic to Thailand. I have not been able to verify the *P. limosa* collection, nor the status of "*P. dicksonii*" (not listed here), which might have been confused with *P. adangensis*. *P. fruticans* Ridl. will be reduced to synonymy with *P. scortechinii* in an imminent revision of the genus in Peninsular Malaysia (Lim, in prep.). Specimens of "*P. paradoxa*" are mostly of *P. subintegra*. There will undoubtedly be fresh taxa yet to be found and named, and it should be obvious that a joint taxonomic program for both sides of the Malaysian-Thai border would be beneficial.

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9. *Pinanga watanaiana*, habit. 10. *Pinanga watanaiana*, mottled leaves. 11. *Pinanga watanaiana*, stems and inflorescence. 12. *Pinanga watanaiana*, variation in leaves.


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MONTGOMERY BOTANICAL CENTER

The Montgomery Foundation, Inc. in Coral Gables, Florida has officially changed its name to the Montgomery Botanical Center. Nell Montgomery Jennings honored the name of Robert H. Montgomery, her then late husband, by founding the organization in 1959. Robert Montgomery had developed extensive palm and cycad collections at his Coral Gables estate. Nell wanted to promote scientific and educational use of these collections, and in so doing, promote recognition of the "Montgomery" name in the field of plant science.

The Montgomery Archive files, however, reflect more than thirty years of dissatisfation with the old name. Nell wrote in 1969, "We have talked at times of re-naming it the Montgomery Research Center for Plant Science or some such name." In 1988, Executive Director Nixon Smiley asked if we could adopt the name "Montgomery Research Center." In 1993, a strong consensus of the directors favored the name "Montgomery Tropical Plant Science Center." Over the years no action was taken because of inertia and nostalgia for the old name.

One of the reasons for the dissatisfaction with the old name was that it did not link "Montgomery" directly with the field of plant science. The word "Foundation" did not convey that the organization is an operating entity actively conducting its own operations. Finally, there are at least five other charitable organizations whose names are exactly the same as the old name and even more organizations with similar names.

Terrence Walters
Executive Director

Back Cover

Blue tanagers (*Thraupis aepiscopus*) are among the most frequent visitors to the ripe infructescences of *Aiphanes aculeata*, as in this picture, taken in Medellín, Colombia.