

4. DAEMONOROPS Blume in Schultes & J. H Schultes, Syst. Veg. 7: 1333. 1830.

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Stems slender, climbing, clustered or less often solitary, sometimes non-climbing or even short and subterranean. Leaves 13–30, pinnate, spiny; leaf sheaths closed in climbing species, open in non-climbing ones, covered with various hairs and spines, these scattered (rarely absent) to densely arranged, or arranged in rows, variously shaped and colored, rarely spines arranged in overlapping, interlocking rings forming ant chambers; ocreas present, obscure; knees present except in non-climbers; cirri present except in non-climbers; pinnae variously arranged and shaped. Plants dioecious, rarely semelparous. Inflorescences branched to 3 orders, male inflorescences more branched than female ones, both covered with overlapping bracts, these persistent, swollen, and split lengthwise to reveal rachillae, apices of all bracts included within prophyll, in other species bracts falling from elongating inflorescence, and only basal bract persistent; male flowers usually arranged distichously along rachillae; female flowers borne in pairs, each pair consisting of a female flower and a sterile male flower. Fruits variously shaped and colored, usually 1-seeded, covered with overlapping scales, usually borne on short stalks; endosperm ruminant; germination adjacent; eophylls pinnate, rarely palmate.

About 100 species: from NE India through SE Asia to just reaching New Guinea; one species in China.

1. *Daemonorops jenkinsiana* (Griffith) Martius, Hist. Nat. Palm. 3: 327. 1853 [*“jenkinsianus”*].

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Calamus jenkinsianus Griffith, Calcutta J. Nat. Hist. 5: 81. 1845; *C. margaritae* Hance; *C. nutantiflorus* Griffith; *Daemonorops jenkinsiana* var. *tenasserimica* Beccari; *D. margaritae* (Hance) Beccari; *D. margaritae* var. *palawanica* Beccari; *D. nutantiflora* (Griffith) Martius; *D. pierreana* Beccari; *D. schmidtiana* Beccari; *Palmijuncus jenkinsianus* (Griffith) Kuntze; *P. margaritae* (Hance) Kuntze; *P. nutantiflorus* (Griffith) Kuntze.

Stems clustered, climbing or often forming thickets, to 25 m, to 6 cm in diam. Leaf sheaths yellowish green with gray, brown, or reddish black hairs, with scattered or rows of black, flattened, triangular spines to 4 cm, mixed with some needlelike spines; ocreas obscure; knees conspicuous; rachis to 3 m with 55–100 linear or lanceolate pinnae per side, these regularly arranged; middle pinnae 30–70 cm, 1.5–3.8 cm wide at midpoint, adaxial veins bristly, margins with smaller bristles; cirri to 2 m. Inflorescences to 0.8 m, erect; inflorescence bracts persistent, swollen, splitting lengthwise to reveal rachillae; male inflorescences branched to 4 orders, female to 2 orders. Fruits yellowish brown, globose to ellipsoid, to 2 × 2 cm, with grooved scales.

Lowland rain forests, often persisting in disturbed areas; below 1000 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan [Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam].

This species provides a cane used in furniture-making, and the leaves are used for thatching.

