
蒲葵属 pu kui shu

Saribus Blume; Wissmannia Burret.

Stems solitary, often large and stout, usually rough with persistent leaf bases. Leaves 10–60, palmate or costapalmate, usually forming a dense crown; dead leaves often persisting as a skirt below crown; leaf sheaths open and often very fibrous, forming a mass of reddish brown, interwoven fibers; pectoles spiny on margins, younger plants with more spines than older ones; hastula present; blades green or variously waxy or dull green, divided to ca. 1/2 their length or almost to base into many segments, these again split and sometimes pendulous at apices. Inflorescences borne among leaves, branched up to 5 orders, rarely an inflorescence consisting of 3 separate but equal branches arising from same prophyll; inflorescences covered with many sheathing bracts; flowers usually borne in small groups, bisexual with 6 stamens and 3 carpels; rarely plants functionally dioecious. Fruits bluish or variously colored, globose to ellipsoid, 1-seeded, usually borne on short stalks; endosperm homogeneous, with an irregular intrusion of seed coat; germination remote; eophylls undivided and lanceolate.

Thirty-three species: from NE Africa and India to Australia, New Guinea, the Pacific islands (Solomon Islands), north to the Philippines, China, and Japan; three species in China.

1a. Leaf blade segments stiff at apices ..........................................................  1. L. jenkinsiana
1b. Leaf blade segments pendulous at apices.

2a. Leaf blades deeply and irregularly divided almost to base into groups of segments ...........................................  2. L. saribus
2b. Leaf blades regularly divided ca. halfway, segments not in groups ...........................................  3. L. chinensis


美丽蒲葵 mei li pu kui

Latania jenkinsiana (Griffith) Devansaye; Livistona feng-kaiensis X. W. Wei & M. Y. Xiao; L. moluccana H. Wendland; L. speciosa Kurz; Saribus jenkinsianus (Griffith) Kuntze ["jen-kensii"]; S. speciosus (Kurz) Kuntze.

Stems to 25 m tall, to 30 cm in diam., rough with leaf scars. Leaves palmate; pectoles 1.3–2 m, with brown recurved spines along margins, decreasing in density toward distal end; hastula to 3 cm; blades almost circular in outline, 1.5–2 m wide, grayish green abaxially, green adaxially, regularly divided to ca. halfway or more into 70–100 segments, these briefly split and erect at apices. Inflorescences to 2 m, branched to 3 orders, with 3–6 partial inflorescences; rachillae 10–30 cm; flowers bisexual, solitary or borne in clusters of 2–6, yellowish, 2.5–4.5 mm. Fruits bluish, globose to ellipsoid or pear-shaped, to 3.5 × 2.5 cm.

Forests and open areas, commonly planted in villages or other disturbed areas; 100–2500 m. Hainan, Yunnan [Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Malaysia (Peninsular), Myanmar, Thailand].

The leaves are commonly used for thatching and making hats, and small plantations are maintained for leaf harvesting. The seeds are eaten as a substitute for betel nut, and in Hainan the fruits are used medicinally.


大叶蒲葵 da ye pu kui

Corypha saribus Loureiro, Fl. Cochinch. 1: 212. 1790; Chamaerops cochinchenensis Loureiro; Livistona cochinchenensis (Loureiro) Martius; L. diepenhorstii Hassk.; L. hasseltii (Hassk.) Hassk.; L. hoogendorpii Teijsmann & Binnendijk; L. inaequisepta Beccari; L. spectabilis Griffith; L. tonkinensis Magalon; L. vogamii Beccari; Pholidocarpus diepenhorstii (Hassk.) Burret; Rhapis cochinchenensis (Loureiro) Martius; Sabal hoogendorpii (Teijsmann & Binnendijk) Kuntze; Saribus cochinchenensis (Loureiro) Blume; S. hasseltii Hassk.; S. hoogendorpii (Teijsmann & Binnendijk) Kuntze.

Stems to 40 m tall, to 65 cm in diam., rough with leaf scars. Leaves palmate; pectoles 1–2 m, with green to brown, recurved spines along margins, spines denser proximally, fewer distally on pectoles; blades almost circular in outline, 1.5–1.7 m wide, green adaxially and abaxially, irregularly divided for up to 1/2 their length into 80–90 segments, segments in groups, each group separated by a split almost to base of leaf, segments deeply split and pendulous at apices. Inflorescences to 2.3 m, branched to 3 orders, with 4–9 partial inflorescences; rachillae 15–45 cm; flowers borne in clusters of 3–5, yellowish, to 2 mm. Fruits blue or blue-gray, globose to ellipsoid, to 2.5 × 2 cm.

Lowland rain forests or dry forests, often in periodically inundated habitats; below 600–1100 m. Guangdong, Yunnan [Borneo, Cambodia, Indonesia (Java, Sumatra), Laos, Malaysia (Peninsular), Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam].

The leaves are used for thatching and fishing; the fruits are eaten locally.

蒲葵 pu kui

*Lattania chinensis* Jacquin, Fragm. Bot. 1: 16. 1800; *Chamaerops biroo* Siebold; *Livistona boninensis* (Beccari) Nakai; *L. chinensis* var. *boninensis* Beccari; *L. chinensis* var. *subglobosa* (Hasskarl) Beccari; *L. japonica* Nakai; *L. oliviformis* (Hasskarl) Martius; *L. sinensis* Griffith; *L. subglobosa* (Hasskarl) Martius; *Saribus chinensis* (Jacquin) Blume; *S. oliviformis* Hasskarl; *S. subglobosus* Hasskarl.

Stems to 15 m tall, 20–30 cm in diam., rough with leaf scars. Leaves palmate; petioles to 1.8 m, with green or black, recurved spines along margins, spines denser proximally, fewer distally on petioles; hastula to 3 cm; blades almost circular in outline, 1.2–1.8 m wide, green on both surfaces, regularly divided to ca. 1/2 their length into 50–90 segments, these split and pendulous at apices. Inflorescences 1–1.2 m, branched to 3 orders, with 6 or 7 partial inflorescences; rachillae 10–18 cm; flowers hermaphrodite, borne in clusters of 4–7, white or yellow, 2–2.5 mm. Fruits green or blue-green, globose to ellipsoid or pear-shaped, 1.5–2.6 × 0.9–1.8 cm.

Coastal forests, often on sandy soils. Guangdong, Hainan, Taiwan [S Japan].

This species is widely planted as an ornamental throughout tropical and subtropical areas of the world.

The leaves are used for making hats, fans, brooms, and raincoats in Guangdong.