

## 5. NYPA Steck, Sagu, 15. 1757.

水椰属 shui ye shu

*Nipa* Thunberg.

Stems creeping, seldom visible above mud in which they grow, rooting from abaxial surface, branching dichotomously, forming large colonies. Leaves 3–15, pinnate, stiff and erect; leaf sheaths open and relatively short; petioles elongate and stout; pinnae many, regularly arranged and spreading in same plane, with conspicuous, brown ramenta on abaxial surface along midveins. Inflorescences branched to 5 or 6 orders, borne on a stout stalk arising from center of leaves; flowers borne in dense heads; male flowers densely arranged along short rachillae, closely covered with light brown bracts; female flowers borne in dense, central heads. Fruits densely arranged in head-shaped clusters of many fruits, large, irregularly globose, flattened and angled, usually 1-seeded; endosperm homogeneous; eophylls bifid.

One species: from Sri Lanka through SE Asia to Japan (Ryukyu Islands), the Pacific islands (Solomon Islands), and just reaching Australia.

1. *Nypa fruticans* Wurm. Verh. Batav. Genootsch. Kunst. 1: 349. 1779.

水椰 shui ye

*Cocos nypa* Loureiro; *Nipa arborescens* Wurm. ex H. Wendland; *N. fruticans* (Wurm.) Thunberg; *N. littoralis* Blanco.

Stems creeping, not visible, dividing equally, to 60 cm in diam., forming large colonies. Leaves stiffly erect; blades to 9 m with 57–100 pinnae per side, these regularly arranged and spreading in same plane. Inflorescences erect, to 2 m. Fruits

brown, densely packed in a head-shaped infructescence, each obovoid, angled, to 15 × 10 cm.

Low-lying estuarine tidally flooded areas, or sometimes in wet areas near the sea. Hainan [Bangladesh, Cambodia, India (including Andaman and Nicobar Islands), Indonesia, Japan (Ryukyu Islands), Myanmar, New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; Australia, Pacific islands (Solomon Islands)].

The leaves are commonly used as thatch, and the inflorescences are tapped for sugar and alcohol. There are many other minor uses.

