

8. TRACHYCARPUS H. Wendland, Bull. Soc. Bot. France 8: 429. 1862.

棕榈属 zong lü shu

Stem solitary, tall and aerial or rarely short and subterranean, usually covered with persistent, fibrous leaf sheaths, stems of older plants losing this covering, leaving a bare, ringed trunk. Leaves 6–25, palmate, usually forming a dense crown; leaf sheaths open, fibrous, old sheaths forming a mass of interwoven fibers, fibers at apex of sheath on younger leaves forming a prominent ocrea; petioles elongate, often bearing small, blunt teeth along margins; hastula present, small or prominent; blades green, gray-green, or bright white waxy on abaxial surfaces, divided into many stiff segments, these shortly split at their apices, rarely 2 or 3 segments fused together. Plants dioecious or polygamous. Inflorescences branched to 4 orders, borne among leaves, covered with many sheathing bracts, usually yellowish at flowering time. Fruits yellowish brown to purple-black, often with a whitish “bloom,” kidney-shaped or oblong, grooved, 1-seeded; endosperm ruminant; germination remote; eophylls undivided, lanceolate.

Eight species: Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, N Thailand, Vietnam; three species (two endemic) in China.

It has not been possible to confirm the Kew World Checklist record of *Trachycarpus martianus* (Wallich ex Martius) H. Wendland for China.

- 1a. Stem short and subterranean; segments 20–30 per leaf 1. *T. nanus*
- 1b. Stem tall and aerial; segments 40–70 per leaf.
 - 2a. Leaf blade bright white waxy on abaxial surface 2. *T. princeps*
 - 2b. Leaf blade green or gray-green on abaxial surface 3. *T. fortunei*

1. *Trachycarpus nanus* Beccari, Webbia 3: 187. 1910 [“*nana*”].

龙棕 long zong

Chamaerops nana (Beccari) Chabaud; *Trachycarpus dracocephalus* Ching & Y. C. Hsu.

Stem solitary, short and subterranean, to 5 cm in diam. Leaf sheaths not known; petioles 12–25 cm, margins with very small teeth; blades semicircular in outline, ca. 0.5 m wide, green or grayish on abaxial surface, divided to more than 2/3 their length into 20–30 stiff segments, transverse veinlets barely visible; middle segments ca. 2 cm wide. Inflorescences to 0.5 m, erect; male inflorescences branched to 2 or more orders; rachillae ca. 10 cm; female inflorescences branched to 2 or more orders; rachillae ca. 10 cm. Fruits yellowish to brown, with a thin waxy bloom, kidney-shaped, to 0.9 × 1.3 cm.

- Dry forests or open areas on mountains; 1800–2300 m. Yunnan.

Brushes are made from bundles of the leaves.

2. *Trachycarpus princeps* Gibbons, Spanner & San Y. Chen, Principes 39: 73. 1995.

贡山棕榈 gong shan zong lü

Stem solitary, to 10 m tall, 13–16 cm in diam. Leaf sheath fibers coarse, forming an ocrea to 10 cm; petioles to 0.8 m, margins with very small teeth; blades semicircular to almost circular in outline, 0.9–1.2 m wide, bright white waxy on ab-

axial surface, divided to ca. 1/2 their length into 45–48 stiff segments, transverse veinlets barely visible; middle segments 3–3.5 cm wide. Inflorescences to 0.8 m, erect; male inflorescences branched to 4 orders; rachillae 1–3 cm; female inflorescences branched to 3 orders; rachillae 2–10 cm. Fruits black with a waxy bloom, kidney-shaped, to 0.8 × 1 cm.

- Steep limestone cliffs on banks of Nu Jiang; 1500–1900 m. Yunnan.

3. *Trachycarpus fortunei* (Hooker) H. Wendland, Bull. Soc. Bot. France 8: 429. 1862.

棕榈 zong lü

Chamaerops fortunei Hooker, Bot. Mag. 86: t. 5221. 1860; *C. excelsa* Thunberg; *Trachycarpus caespitosus* Beccari; *T. wagnerianus* Beccari.

Stem solitary, to 12 m tall, to 15 cm in diam. Leaf sheath fibers persistent, forming an ocrea more than 25 cm; petioles to 60 m, margins with very fine teeth; blades semicircular in outline, to 1.2 m wide, green on abaxial surface, divided to ca. 3/4 their length into 40–50 stiff segments, transverse veinlets barely visible; middle segments to 3 cm wide. Inflorescences 0.7–0.9 m, erect; male inflorescences branched to 4 orders; rachillae 1–3 cm; female inflorescences branched to 3 orders; rachillae 3–15 cm. Fruits black with a waxy bloom, kidney-shaped, to 0.9 × 1.4 cm.

Commonly cultivated, rarely found in forests; 100–2400 m. S of Qin Ling and Chang Jiang [Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Vietnam].

Fibers are collected from the leaf bases and made into coats and other items (brooms, brushes, doormats); wax is collected from the fruits; and a hemostatic drug is extracted from the seeds. This species is widely cultivated as an ornamental, especially in cooler climates.

