PLANT FACT SHEET

Calamus flagellum Griff.

GENUS *Calamus* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Wai lao, Wai mon

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots, Fruit

The soft inner young shoots are eaten as a vegetable. They are also used for chutney.
The ripe fruit are eaten. They are also chewed as a masticatory.

DESCRIPTION

A rattan. It is a tall thin cane. It climbs to 30 m tall. It is 4-5 cm across. The stems are black coloured. They have prickles. The leaf sheaths are greenish yellow with dark brown hairs. It has flattened spines 6 cm long. The leaf stalks ate 3 m long and there are 27-35 narrow leaflets on each side. The middle ones are 60-70 cm long by 4-5 cm wide. The flowering shoot is 7 m long. The fruit are yellow to brown and oval. They are 3 cm long by 2 cm wide.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In Laos it grows between 800-950 m altitude. In Thailand it grows between 1,400-1,500 m altitude. In Yunnan.

NOTES

There are 375-400 Calamus species. There are 175 species in tropical Asia.

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