ences, which nevertheless further confirm the same characters as for *I. polymorpha* (other than the undivided leaf) with its range of variations. In Malaysia, this entire-leaved form has also been seen sympatrically with the usual pinnate ones, as collected by Dransfield & Saw (JD7620, K, KEP) at Ulu Besut, Terengganu. I would reduce the new taxon in rank as a variety, and given the options in taxonomy, name it under *Iguanura polymorpha* Becc. with an epithet that identifies the undivided leaves. Hodel's diagnosis serves the determination at this rank, and his specimen 1628 at BK as the holotype for the var. nov.; other reference collections have been mentioned above. This is undoubtedly a palm (together with other related *Iguanura* taxa) that may need urgent and enhanced protection in the wild, for obvious reasons.

Iguanura polymorpha Becc. var. **integra** C.K. Lim **var. nov.** *I. speciosa* D. Hodel, The Palm Journal 134: 29–30 (1997), **synon. nov.** Type: *D.R. Hodel et al.* 1628 (Holotype BK).

IGUANURA DIVERGENS

Iguanura divergens D. Hodel, The Palm Journal 136: 7–8 (1997).

This is a handsome new taxon with clustering stems, which may provide clues about transformations between the *wallichiana* and *polymorpha* types in the genus, if speculations may be countenanced; the branched rachillae are indeed reminiscent of *I. wallichiana*, whereas the trapezoidal leaflets of the pinnae are clearly similar to larger forms of *I. polymorpha*. Hodel describes the leaves as marcescent, and the inflorescences as interfoliar, and states that the stems are apparently quite robust, up to 3.5 cm in diameter, reaching to 3 m in height. Regrettably no fruit had been collected; this is unfortunate, as floral features tend to be indistinguishable in *Iguanura*. I viewed the holotype at BK, and would have liked to see more specimens. Initially I thought that there might well be a connection with the new species that I have described, *I. perdana*, from Perak, which is, however, usually solitary, but sometimes occurs with basal growths. After viewing two fine live specimens cultivated at Nong Nooch, I must note certain discrepancies from Hodel's descriptions: the leaf sheaths abscise, revealing prominently infrafoliar inflorescences, some growing a mere 10–25 cm above the base of the stems (see Fig. 1); there were of course others interfoliar, awaiting leaf abscission. Their stems were ca. 2 cm in diameter, and were not as robust as mentioned by Hodel for his holotype. Inescapably, I was reminded of the giant forms of *I. polymorpha* from Upper Belum in Perak, which also had long nine-branched inflorescences. I believe that a further collection and examination of the infructescence and drupes are needed to confirm this new taxon.

IGUANURA TENUIS

Iguanura tenuis Hodel, The Palm Journal 136: 11 (1997).

This is another new species that has been recognized from its finely branched inflorescence, collected from Takua Pa, near Khao Sok. It has been described as clustering, but is otherwise similar to the solitary palmlet commonly seen at the nature reserve. This difference in habit is important within this genus, as separate forms could be distinguished and justified by this character. On the basis of Hodel's evidence that *I. tenuis* is caespitose, I propose to recognize another solitary taxon at varietal rank, to be named *Iguanura tenuis* var. *khaosokensis* (see below). As mentioned, the species has pinnae similar to *I. polymorpha*, but with the branched inflorescences, reminiscent of elegant forms of *I. wallichiana*, interfoliar—as the sheaths do not peal off as neatly as with the regular *polymorpha* types, and may persist and shred, nevertheless leaving clean stems. In passing, it might be mentioned that between 1994 and late 1997, the understory palm population at Khao Sok appears to have declined significantly. Along the main trails, *Iguanura* numbers seem to have reduced to a quarter, and likewise for the *Pinanga* and *Licuala* spp. The only two *Wallichia* specimens that I had noted previously are also no longer to be seen.

Iguanura tenuis Hodel var. **khaosokensis** C.K. Lim **var. nov.**

A varietate typica habitu solitario bene distincta. Typus: Thailand, Surat Thani, Khao Sok, 1997, C.K. Lim H1993 (holotypus BKF, isotypus KEP).

Hodel's descriptions of the species are fully applicable to the variety, which I would recognize on the important difference of its solitary

habit (see Fig. 2), after observing the sizeable population at Khao Sok. This character in *Iguanura* is indeed distinct, as observed in other species, and is quite different from forms of stems with basal suckers or forms that are caespitose; of course adjacent seedlings growing entwined could give a false impression. The new variety has been observed growing to 2 m and sometimes fruiting at less than 1 m. The leaf sheaths may shred rather than fall off neatly; this aspect is unlike those in the regular *polymorpha* group in Malaysia and accounts for the interfoliar inflorescences. The trapezoidal pinnae are indistinguishable from the latter. It should be noted that specimens in cultivation can be quite robust, and branched inflorescences become less delicate or filiform and quite similar to those of *I. wallichiana* (as in specimens of "*I. wallichiana* var. *minor*"). Floral buds were noted to be yellow in color, and the drupes are similar to *I. polymorpha,* often ovoid and slightly curved, ripening from white to pink and black. The epithet helps to honor one of the geographic centers of this variety.

Distribution: Thailand, Surat Thani, Khao Sok, Takua Pa. Habitat: Limestone hill forest, 100m and above. Locally not rare.

Type: Thailand, Surat Thani, Khao Sok, 1997, C.K. Lim H1993 (holotype BKF, isotype KEP).

Other collections seen: Surat Thani, (Pangnga) Takua Pa, 1968, *Beusekon & Phengklai* 706 BKF(47018); Takua Pa, 1972, *Larsen* 30884 (K); Bang Ta Khun, Ban Klong, 1986, *Smith & Sumawong* GC60 (K); Bang Klong Yee Chang, Klong Saeng, 1986, *Smith & Sumawong* GC62 (K); Khao Sok, 1994, *C.K. Lim* H1615 (KEP), H1724 (PSM Collection).

IGUANURA THALANGENSIS

Iguanura thalangensis C.K. Lim **sp. nov.**

I. tenuis affinis sed habitu solitario, inflorescentiisque spiciformibus vel bifurcatis differt. Typus: Thailand, Phuket, Khao Pra Taew, 1997, *C.K. Lim* H1995 (holotypus BKF, isotypus KEP).

Solitary, stilt-rooted, stem grey or brown, 1.5 cm diameter, erect to 2 m (fruiting from 50 cm height), leaves nine or more in crown, pinnate, 60 × 24 cm, with usually four pairs of leaflets, trapezoidal as in *I. polymorpha,* leaf sheaths brown shredding or abscising, internode 1–1.4 cm, inflorescences two or more usually interfoliar, spicate or bifurcating, sometimes to four, 20–30 cm long, fruit ovoid, white to pink unripe, similar in size to *I. belumensis.*

Distribution: Thailand, Phuket, Ranong, Chumpon. Habitat: Hill forests, 200 m and above. Locally not rare.

Type: Thailand, Phuket, Khao Pra Taew, 1997 C.K. Lim H1995 (holotype BKF, isotypus KEP)

Other specimens seen: Chumpon, Kao Num Sao, 1927, Kerr 12024 (BK) (24793); Ranong, Muang Len, 1966, *Hansen & Smitinand* 11960 (BKF) (37263); Khao Pra Mi, 1966, *Hansen & Smitinand* 11829 (BKF) (40006), 1972, *Larsen et al.* 30843 (K, BKF) (77436); Kaper, Khao Pawta Luangkaew, 1929, *Kerr* 16918 (K), 1973 Geesink and Santisuk 5147 (BKF) (56635), 1979 *Shimizu et al.* 26758 (BKF) (76638); Mueang Chon, 1987 *Niyondham et al.* 1436 (K); Phuket, Khao Pra Taew, 1994, *C.K. Lim* H1615 (KEP, PSM Collection), H1731 (PSM Collection).

The epithet refers to the location where I first observed the palm; Thalang was the earlier name for Phuket. The species is apparently quite widespread with several collections having been made from the Ranong area. It is probably not uncommon, but appears to be relatively rare in its type location at 200 m within a hill forest reserve, where *Pinanga patula* var. *merguensis* and another new species of *Pinanga* are also found.

The taxon is similar in habit and appearance to *I. tenuis* var. *khaosokensis,* with which it makes an interesting comparative pairing in inflorescence differences, in parallel with *I. geonomiformis* and *I. wallichiana,* with their spicate (or forking) and branching rachillae, respectively (see Figs. 3 and 4). The spicate stalks are often vertical; the inflorescences in both taxa are interfoliar and the leaf sheaths tend to shred rather than to abscise, but do not seem to be lingeringly marcescent as for *I. wallichiana.* The more profuse and infrafoliar infructescences of *I. belumensis* are quite different and recognizable from the *I. tenuis* variants. So far, this Malaysian relative has not been found in Thailand, and vice versa; the two Thai taxa are thus endemic within the national boundary.

An Interim Checklist of Iguanura Taxa in Peninsular Thailand

From viewing collections at BK, BKF, K, KEP, SING and with the benefit of recent field observations, I would list the following nine taxa (with those not found in Malaysia underlined):