

Calospatha subsumed in *Calamus* (Arecaceae: Calamoideae)

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Summary. Based on previously published phylogenetic research, the genus *Calospatha* Becc. (Calamoideae) is placed in synonymy within *Calamus* L. The new combination, *Calamus calospathus* (Ridl.) W. J. Baker & J. Dransf. is made.

Key Words. *Calamoideae*, *Calamus*, *Calospatha*.

Calospatha Becc. (Arecaceae: Calamoideae: Calameae: Calaminae) is a monotypic genus endemic to the Malay Peninsula (Dransfield 1978, 1979). It is differentiated from the other five genera of subtribe Calaminae by a series of unusual characters. The plant is short-stemmed and lacks climbing organs. The inflorescence is very short and the rachis bracts are borne in a plane at right angles to the orientation of the prophyll. These bracts split to the base, but remain, cow-like, above each first-order branching system. There are also three seeds in the fruit and the endosperm is homogeneous. Such a combination of features is unknown in other members of Calaminae. However, phylogenetic research based on morphological, plastid DNA and nuclear ribosomal DNA data (Baker *et al.* 2000a, b, c) has revealed that generic delimitation in the Calaminae is highly problematic, and that *Calospatha*, *Ceratolobus* Blume ex Schult. & Schult. f., *Daemonorops* Blume, *Pogonotium* J. Dransf. and *Retispatha* J. Dransf. are embedded variously within a paraphyletic *Calamus* L., the largest of all palm genera. For the most part, these studies are too preliminary for taxonomic action to be taken. However, the evidence pertaining to *Calospatha* is clear-cut and rather robust. The genus is embedded within a core clade of *Calamus* species (clade C of Baker *et al.* 2000b) within which the type species of *Calamus*, *C. rotang* L. would most likely resolve. Of the *Calamus* species sampled in these studies, *Calospatha* is sister to *Calamus conirostris* Becc., a representative of a group of closely related species native to the Malay Peninsula and Borneo and with which *Calospatha* shares some morphological similarities. For example, the fruit scales are unchanneled and the rachillae are highly congested in both groups.

Although it is premature to reach a global solution for the taxonomic problems of this ecologically and

economically important subtribe, the maintenance of *Calospatha* can no longer be justified. Therefore, we place it in synonymy with *Calamus* and provide a new combination for its only species, *Calamus calospathus* (Ridl.) W. J. Baker & J. Dransf.

Taxonomic Treatment

***Calamus* L. (1753: 325).**

Palmijuncus Rumph. ex Kuntze (1891: 731), nom. illeg.

Rotanga Boehm. in Ludwig (1760: 395).

Rotang Adans. (1763: 24).

Zalacella Becc. (1908: 496).

Calospatha Becc. (1911: 232), **synon. nov.**

Cornera Furtado (1955: 518).

Schizospatha Furtado (1955: 525).

***Calamus calospathus* (Ridl.) W. J. Baker & J. Dransf. comb. nov.**

Daemonorops calospatha Ridl., Mat. Fl. Malay. Penins. 2: 179 (1907). *Calospatha scortechinii* Becc. (1911: 232).

synon. nov.

Calospatha confusa Furtado (1951: 361).

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