

## *Calamus tenuis* Roxb. a new host for *Chilo suppressalis* (Walker) (Lepidoptera, Crambidae)

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**ABSTRACT:** *Calamus tenuis* Roxb. belonging to Arecaceae was recorded as a new larval host for *Chilo suppressalis* (Lepidoptera, Crambidae) from Kamrup district of Assam, India. However, other parts like leaf, stem, root and pistillate inflorescence were found unaffected.

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**KEY WORDS:** Arecaceae, rattan, inflorescence, borer, Assam

Rattans are climbing palms of the monocot family Arecaceae (Renuka *et al.*, 2010). The association between different insects and rattans has been reported by many workers in various countries (Chung, 1995; Mattes *et al.*, 1998; Howard *et al.*, 2001; Sunderland, 2004; Merklinger *et al.*, 2014; Shameem and Prathapan, 2014; Liu *et al.*, 2019). However, not much information is available on the insect pests of rattans in India (Renuka *et al.*, 2010). *Calamus tenuis* Roxb. (Fig. 1 A) is one of the common and economically important rattan species of Assam. The staminate inflorescence of this dioecious species is around 3m long with 6-9 partial inflorescence (Mehmud and Roy, 2021). After anthesis (Fig. 1 B), the staminate inflorescences dry up and their remains were found to adhere to the plant for several months. During observations of the staminate flowers, larvae

measuring 2-2.5cm (Fig. 1 C-E), were noticed on the rachis, which were reared (Fig. 1, F-I) and got identified as *Chilo suppressalis* (Walker) belonging to Lepidoptera, Crambidae. However, other parts like leaf, stem, root and pistillate inflorescence were found unaffected.

Khan *et al.* (1991) reported that *C. suppressalis* as an important rice borer in India, Indonesia and East Asia and there are around 41 host plants belonged to 30 genera under six families (four monocot and two dicot), where most of the plants were of the grass family Poaceae. Adult *C. suppressalis* measuring 1.3cm, is pale brown. Although *C. suppressalis* affects every part of the rice plant (Lu *et al.*, 2017; Meng *et al.*, 2019), it is worth mentioning that in rattans, only the staminate inflorescence of *C. tenuis* is infested. Voucher

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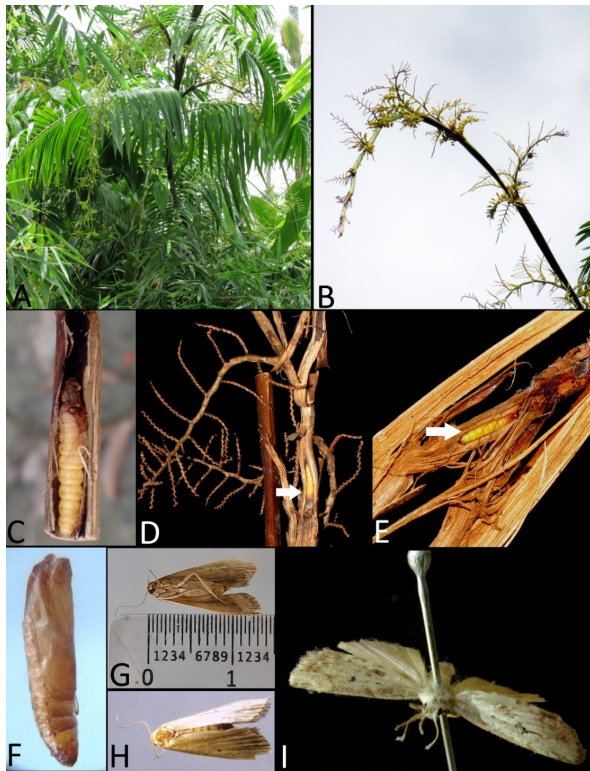


Fig. 1 *Calamus tenuis*: A. Habit (staminate inflorescence), B. Anthesis of staminate inflorescence. *Chilo suppressalis*: C. Larva inside rachis; D-E. Larva inside partial staminate inflorescence; F. Pupa; G-I. Adult.

specimens were submitted in the Department of Botany and *C. suppressalis* in the Department of Zoology, Handique Girls' College respectively.

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