

Comparison of descriptive characters, distribution, and habitat of *Cycas rumphii* and *C. circinalis*

	<i>Cycas rumphii</i>	<i>Cycas circinalis</i>
Descriptive characters:		
<i>Stems</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arborescent, to 3(-10) m tall • 11-20 cm in diameter at narrowest point 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arborescent, to 5 m tall
<i>Leaves</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bright green, highly glossy • 150-250 cm long • flat (not keeled) in section (opposing leaflets inserted at 180° on rachis) • 150-200 leaflets • orange tomentum shedding as leaf expands • rachis consistently terminated by paired leaflets • petiole 35-60 cm long (20-30% of total leaf), glabrous, spinescent for 80-100% of length • basal leaflets 19 cm long, not gradually reducing to spines • facultatively deciduous in extremely dry times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bright green, semiglossy • 150-250 cm long • flat (not keeled) in section (opposing leaflets inserted at 180° on rachis) • 170 leaflets • tomentum shedding as leaf expands • petiole 40-70 cm long, glabrous, spinescent for 90% of length • basal leaflets not gradually reducing to spines • not facultatively deciduous
<i>Median leaflets</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simple, strongly discoloured • 220-320 mm long, 12-16 mm wide • inserted at 70-85° to rachis • decurrent for 5-8 mm • narrowed to 4.5-7 mm at base (to 35-50% of maximum width) • 15-19 mm apart on rachis • median leaflets section flat • margins slightly recurved • apex acute, not spinescent • midrib flat above, raised below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simple, weakly discoloured • 150-300 mm long, 7-12 mm wide, narrowed to 2.5 mm at base • 12 mm apart on rachis • median leaflets section flat • margins flat • apex softly acuminate, not spinescent • midrib raised above, flat below
<i>Cataphylls</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • narrowly triangular • soft, pilose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • narrowly triangular • soft, thinly sericeous or lacking tomentum • 50 mm long • persistent
<i>Pollen cones</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fusiform • yellow to brown (pale) • microsporophyll lamina firm, dorsiventrally thickened • apical spine rudimentary, sharply upturned, 2-5 mm long 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • narrowly ovoid • orange • 45 cm long, 10 cm in diameter • microsporophyll lamina firm, not dorsiventrally thickened, 38-50 mm long, 12-19 mm wide • apical spine prominent, gradually raised, 25 mm long
<i>Megasporophylls</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-32 cm long • white-tomentose or yellow-tomentose • ovules 6, glabrous • lamina lanceolate, 50-75 mm long, 25-35 mm wide • obscurely dentate, with 12 soft lateral spines 0-1 mm long, 0-2 mm wide • apical spine distinct from lateral spines, 15-25 mm long 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 cm long • brown-tomentose • ovules 4-10, glabrous • lamina lanceolate, 74-100 mm long, 25-38 mm wide • regularly dentate, with 24 pungent lateral spines • apical spine distinct from lateral spines
<i>Seeds</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flattened-ovoid • 45 mm long, 30 mm wide • sarcotesta orange-brown, not pruinose • fibrous layer absent • sclerotesta apically crested • spongy endocarp present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • subglobose • 25-38 mm long • sarcotesta yellow • fibrous layer present • sclerotesta smooth • spongy endocarp absent
Distribution:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • centred on the Moluccan island group (Maluku, or the Spice Islands) • extending E into Indonesian Papua and a short way along the N coast of Papua New Guinea, and N to Sulawesi • in the west, appears to extend to southern Borneo and NE Java 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian endemic • restricted to the Western Ghats, in the states of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and the south of Maharashtra
Habitat:	Largely a species of closed woodland or forest on more or less calcareous substrates in near-shore environments	Typically occurs in fairly dense, seasonally dry, scrubby woodlands in hilly areas