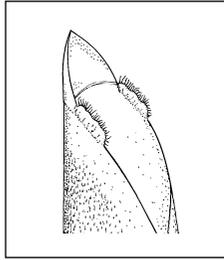


ILLUSTRATED KEY TO THE PRINCIPAL NEPALESE CULTIVATED BAMBOOS

(AS KNOWN 1994)

1a CULM SHEATH BLADE BROAD



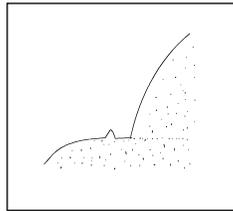
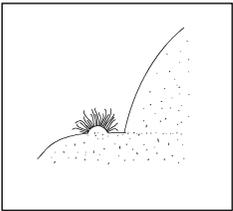
- 2a Branchlets thorny .... *Bambusa balcooa*  
(dhanu bans)
- 2b Branchlets not thorny

3a New culms with furry wax at first

3b New culms shiny .... *Bambusa nutans*  
(mal bans, tharu bans)

4a Culm sheath auricles rounded with bristles

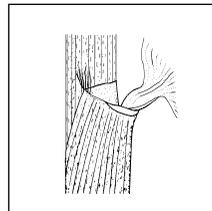
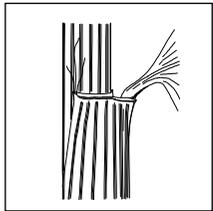
4b Culm sheath auricles triangular and naked



.... *Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*  
(tama bans, choya bans)

5a Leaf sheath ligule very short;  
culm sheath hairs dark brown

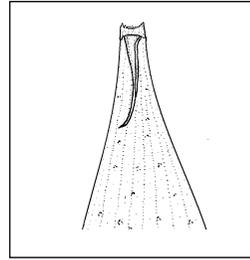
5b Leaf sheath ligule longer;  
culm sheath hairs light brown



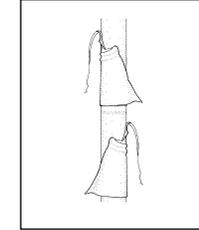
.... *Dendrocalamus hookeri*  
(kalo bans, bhalu bans)

.... *Bambusa nepalensis*  
(tama bans, phusre bans)

1b CULM SHEATH BLADE NARROW



6a Spreading bamboo with culms growing wide apart and very long  
culm sheath blades

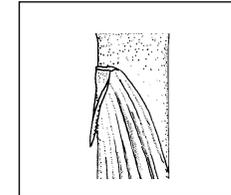
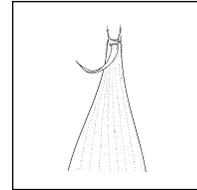


.... *Melocanna baccifera*  
(philim bans)

6b Clump-forming bamboos  
(culms growing in well-separated clumps of more than 10 culms)

7a Culm sheath apex narrow

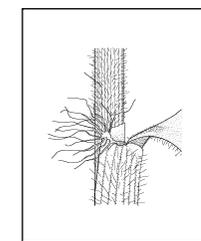
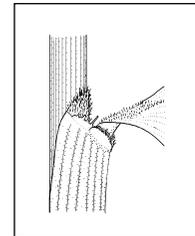
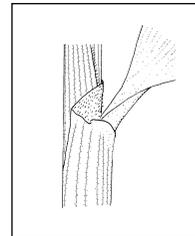
7b Culm sheath apex broad



.... *Himalayacalamus falconeri*  
(thudi nigalo, singhane)

8a Leaf sheath with no auricle or small auricle

8b Leaf sheath with large auricle and widely  
spreading bristles



.... *Drepanostachyum intermedium*  
(tite nigalo)

9a Culm sheath interior smooth at top

9b Culm sheath interior rough at top

.... *Himalayacalamus hookerianus* (padang)

.... *Drepanostachyum falcatum* (tite nigalo)

## NOTES ON SPECIES IN ILLUSTRATED KEY AND OTHER CLOSELY RELATED BAMBOOS

### 1a BAMBOOS WITH BROAD CULM SHEATH BLADES

These are mainly large-stature bamboos from the genera *Bambusa* and *Dendrocalamus*, except for two small introduced *Bambusa* species, *B. multiplex* from Kathmandu and *B. alamii* from the eastern terai, and a small variety of *D. strictus* with solid culms, *latthi bans*.

#### *Bambusa balcooa*

While in much of India the common thorny bamboo is *B. bambos* (*arundinacea*), that species has not yet been found in Nepal. *B. balcooa* is less thorny, and is common throughout the terai and the middle hills of western and central Nepal. It is a large species when allowed to grow unthinned, but it is usually thinned regularly in the hills to limit the size of the culms.

#### *Bambusa nutans*

Two different subspecies of this bamboo are found in Nepal. Subsp. *nutans* (called *tharu bans*) is found in western and central Nepal, while subsp. *cupulata* (called *mal bans*) is found in eastern Nepal. Other species with shiny culms include *Bambusa tulda*, found in the central and western terai, and *Bambusa vulgaris*, an exotic species with brilliantly striped yellow and green culms. These are strong bamboos with thick-walled culms, used for general constructional purposes.

#### *Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*

This bamboo is naturally found in the warm broad-leaved subtropical forests along the outer limits of the Himalayan foothills, and it is also widely planted in the terai and the middle hills. It has large leaves, and flexible culms that are very useful for making mats and other woven articles. It is called *tama bans* if the shoots are eaten, or *choya bans* if it is used for weaving. Different varieties may also be found, including one with shortened swollen internodes and strongly dimpled culm sheath blades, *D. hamiltonii* var *undulatus*, known as *dhungre bans*. *D. strictus* is similar, but has no auricles, and the culms of the variety grown in the terai are small with solid culms, called *latthi bans*.

#### *Dendrocalamus hookeri*

This large bamboo with dark hairs is common in the hills of eastern Nepal. When small it is called *kalo bans*, but when it grows very large it is known as *bhalu bans*. It is similar to *D. sikkimensis*, a species which is even hairier and darker, with long bristles on the leaf sheaths. *D. sikkimensis* may be found near the eastern border. *D. giganteus* (called *racchasi bans* is even larger still, with curled culm sheath auricles with no bristles. It is only found in the eastern terai.

#### *Bambusa nepalensis*

This species is found throughout the middle hills of Nepal. At first sight it appears to be a variety of *D. hamiltonii*, and it has similar uses. In Kathmandu it is called *tama bans*, but in the eastern hills it is called *phusre bans* or *khosre bans*. It has broader culm sheaths with golden-brown hairs.

### 1b BAMBOOS WITH NARROW CULM SHEATH BLADES

These are mainly small bamboos from the genera *Drepanostachyum*, *Himalayacalamus*, and also *Ampelocalamus*, except for one larger bamboo, *Melocanna baccifera*.

#### *Melocanna baccifera*

A rare species in Nepal, introduced from Bangladesh, called *lahure bans* in West Nepal and *philim bans* in West Bengal. The well-separated culms are very straight, and quite strong. Although the culms can reach a height of 21m in Bangladesh, they are usually less than 15m tall in Nepal. The fruit is unusual for a bamboo, being the size and shape of an avocado pear.

#### *Himalayacalamus falconeri*

In central Nepal this species is more common in the forest than in cultivation, but in East Nepal it is widely planted. Several similar species are found in forest areas, including *Himalayacalamus cupreus*, a larger species from West Nepal with longer internodes and short copper-coloured cilia on the culm sheath edges. Another species with broad tops to the culm sheaths is *Ampelocalamus patellaris*, known as *nibha* or *ghopi bans* in East Nepal, and *lyas bans* in West Nepal. *A. patellaris* has corky rings around the culm nodes and very long fringes on the edges of the culm sheaths.

#### *Drepanostachyum intermedium*

This is the most commonly planted small bamboo in East Nepal. It is less hairy in northern districts, but still has large auricles with spreading bristles. Other *Drepanostachyum* species may have auricles with spreading bristles at first, but they fall off quickly, while they remain attached in this species. *Drepanostachyum* species can be distinguished from *Himalayacalamus* species by the rough culm sheath interior below the ligule and the presence of more than one fully-formed floret in each spikelet.

#### *Himalayacalamus hookerianus*

Species of *Himalayacalamus* with narrow tops to the culm sheath are commonly cultivated. In eastern Nepal the main species is *Himalayacalamus hookerianus*. It has blue culms and very narrow culm sheaths drawn out into long points towards the top. Another species with more variable culm sheaths and short internodes is *Himalayacalamus brevinodus*. In central to western Nepal a species with a ring of hairs around the nodes and a long feathered culm sheath ligule, *Himalayacalamus fimbriatus*, called *tite nigalo*, is the most commonly cultivated small bamboo.

#### *Drepanostachyum falcatum*

In western Nepal a further species of *Drepanostachyum* is cultivated. It is similar in its long leaf sheath ligule to one of the commonly cultivated small bamboos of North-west India, *Drepanostachyum falcatum*, although it has smooth rather than ridged culms. Its flowers are not yet known, and so it cannot be accurately identified. Several other small *Drepanostachyum* species in Nepal are also not yet properly known.

