

Striking riparian tree that is small with large evergreen spiny leaves. Especially common near the pond at the end of the Pandanus Trail.

Striking features

- very large and narrow spiny leaves
- evergreen
- stilt roots
- stout, whorled branches



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Heavily leaning stem with basal silt roots.

Description

Stature: lightly branched small tree, often leaning. It bears stilt roots at its base and the stout branches are arranged in whorls. When young it is branchless and has no stilt roots.

Size: shrub to small tree.

Bark: prickly when mature.

Leaves: large (up to 1 m) and narrow (< 5 cm) evergreen leaves are aggregated at the end of branches. Margins are sharply toothed.

Flower: The species is dioecious with each sex bearing large terminal inflorescences.

Fruit: The large (ca 5 cm in diam) compound fruits are syncarps that remain on the trees for months. They are green when unripe and consists of a dozen tightly aggregated drupes.

Seed:



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Ecology

Status and distribution: This large pantropical genus has over 85 species in Madagascar, and all but one are endemics. *Pandanus flagellibracteatus* is restricted to the East of the island, but its range is uncertain. There is probably a second, less common, species in Kirindy forest.

Habitat requirements: this species clearly prefers the rivers' embankments and rapidly disappears away from temporary water courses. *Phenology:* evergreen.

Kirindy: very common in CS7 along the Kirindy river embankments.

Reproduction: unripe (green) fruits were observed on only one tree in December 2013 and none were noticed in November 2007 and 2008.



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Terminal unripe fruit.



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Young individual on forest floor

Uses

None reported.

Remarkable individuals

Epiphytic sapling on the main fork (15m above ground) of a massive *Adansonia rubrostipa* – location: CS7, North of trail G-4

Sources and further information

General:

Botanical description: Huynh (1999)

Forestry:

Kirindy:

Herbarium specimen:

Cremer 3507

Leandri 2241

References:

Huynh, K.-L. (1999) The genus *Pandanus* (Pandanaceae) in Madagascar (part 3). *Candollea* 54, 145-170.