

Trachycarpus *ukhrulensis*^[34]

had the interim names *T. sp. 'Manipur'* and *T. sp. 'Naga Hills'* before it was officially described. Its common name is Saramati palm. It is from the extreme eastern part of northern India, in Ukhrul District (hence the botanical name), in the Naga Hills area of Manipur State (hence the two interim names). This is right next to the border of Burma (Myanmar).

Growing straight, 30 to 50 feet tall, it is topped with an eight-foot wide crown. Its 12-inch diameter trunk can be clean and bare on the older parts^[34] (Fig. 86), or in habitat, it can have a turtle-back pattern (naturally or caused by fire is being debated). This interesting pattern shows the extremely dense persistent leaf bases when they are mostly clear of fibers (Fig. 88). They are very broad, short and asymmetrically triangular. Further up the trunk they are covered with coarse fibers that are much like those of *T. martianus*; the fibers form a weave, not a shaggy look (Fig. 90). In cultivation, it can lean as a young plant creating a curve at the base of the trunk when it gets older.^[27]

The 4-foot leaves have a thick texture, and a darker green color on

their top surface than any other trachy, with very white, powdery undersides. This has been especially noted with seedlings labeled *T. sp. 'Manipur'*, but all have varying amounts of glaucous. The species has 16-inch petioles in habitat, but in cultivation they have grown to 30 inches long. They have harmless spines, and are 0.6 to 1 inch wide in the middle and 2 to 2.5 inches wide by the trunk. It holds 6 to 12 leaves when in exposed windy locations in habitat, but up to 28 in protected areas, with 64 to 70 segments.^[34] It tends to start flowering after it is 10 feet tall.^[45] The ripe fruit is yellow,



Fig. 2

Figs. 1-7: Trachycarpus ukhrulensis in habitat, in the Naga Hills area of Manipur State, the most remote northeastern corner of India.

Fig. 1 (previous page): Supplied by James Verhaegen. Photo by Haripada Roy.

Fig. 2: T. ukhrulensis as seen at the PACSOA website: pacsoa.org. Photo by Haripada Roy.

Figs. 3 (very glaucous underside of leaf), 4 (top of leaf) & 7 (all on the next page): Photos by Keshow Chandra Pradhan (Kenibreedplants.com), who found, described and named this species with M. Lorek.

Figs. 5 (next page): T. ukhrulensis is seen along the tree line in this shot of its steep habitat. Photo by Michael Lorek.

Figs. 6 (next page): Shows the deep bright green of the leaves. Photo by Michael Lorek.