

bamboo

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bulletin



BAMBOO SOCIETY of AUSTRALIA inc.
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FRONT COVER PHOTO:

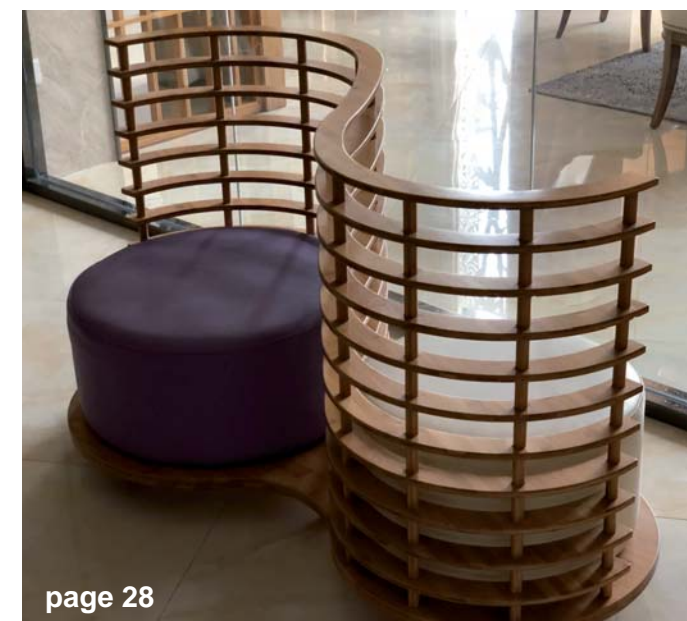
Bambusa vulgaris cv. 'Wamin'

◀ OPPOSITE:

Bambusa textilis var. *gracilis* growing beside a swimming pool and affected by splashes of chlorinated water. Overspray of some herbicides can produce the same effect.

Reader Contributions

We would love to publish your bamboo experiences. If you would be interested in sharing your information on bamboo growing, managing, building or cooking, send text and attached photos to Mark McCarthy at: editor@bamboo.org.au



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From the Editor's Desk

In this issue we have a story from *Bamboo By Logan Leigh*, where the owner David Embury realised the potential of laminated bamboo to be formed into structural beams and posts. He has built a house using the bamboo products that he has developed.

Another bamboo is flowering along the east coast. This time it's *Phyllostachys bambusoides f. castillonis*. The seedlings from last year's flowering of *B. khasianum* are doing well.

Munir Vahanvati reports on the 2018 Global Bamboo and Rattan Congress.

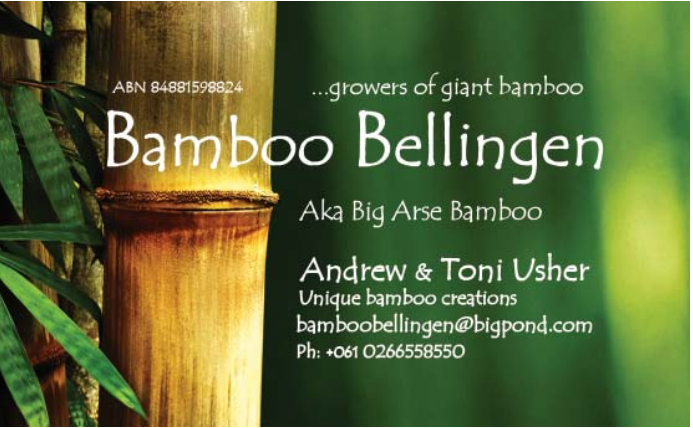
The confusion that surrounds *B. albostrata*, 'Goldstripe', 'Creamstripe' has caused a lot of problems for retailers of bamboo. Photos of the growth habits of this bamboo will help identification.

I came across a stand of *G. atrovialacea* which had developed a green culm with black stripes known as *G. atrovialacea* var. *watupawan* or *reverse atro*.

Mark McCarthy
Editor

Phyllostachys bambusoides f. castillonis. ▶

◀ Bambusa albostrata 'Goldstripe'.





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Bamboo

by Logan Leigh



Now more than ever, there is a greater demand for building and manufacturing materials to have a reduced carbon footprint. Today's building industry demands sustainable products and bamboo is fast becoming the most eco-friendly sustainable natural fibre in the world.

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Established in 1982, David and Gay Embury's Bamboo By Logan Leigh has over 35 years of experience in the kitchen and joinery industry.

Having invested time and money into the research and development of bamboo products, they are the first to develop an extensive range and are specialists in the field of bamboo manufacturing.

Over the last three years, they have won 12 Business Chamber Awards including the 2016 Excellence

Innovation and the 2016 Excellence in Sustainability and 2016 Business of the Year. They are also proud members of the Bamboo Society of Australia.

Their participation in trade shows, including the HIA Sydney Home Show, has received an overwhelming response from industry leaders, builders and the general public.

Their products are custom made and crafted to a very high standard. Originally starting with laminated



bamboo bench tops, David realised the potential of bamboo to be utilised throughout the house. He developed a bamboo laminated structural beam that has undergone tests by Newcastle University, guaranteeing strength and durability.





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In Flower

*Phyllostachys
bambusoides
f. castillonis*

<i>Origin:</i>	<i>China</i>
<i>Average Height:</i>	<i>10m</i>
<i>Culm Diameter:</i>	<i>60mm</i>
<i>Minimum Temperature:</i>	<i>-15c</i>

A running bamboo from China, smaller than the principal form, the new culms are bright straw yellow with broad dark green striping on the sulcus. The culms and branches may sometimes take on rosy tints. Some of the leaves have occasional cream pinstripes. The shoots are reportedly less acrid in the raw state than those of the type form of the species.

This form has been in Europe since 1886 and in the United States since the early 1900's, where a period of flowering in the late 60's and early 70's severely diminished its distribution. We will have to wait and see how extensive the flowering will be here in Australia.

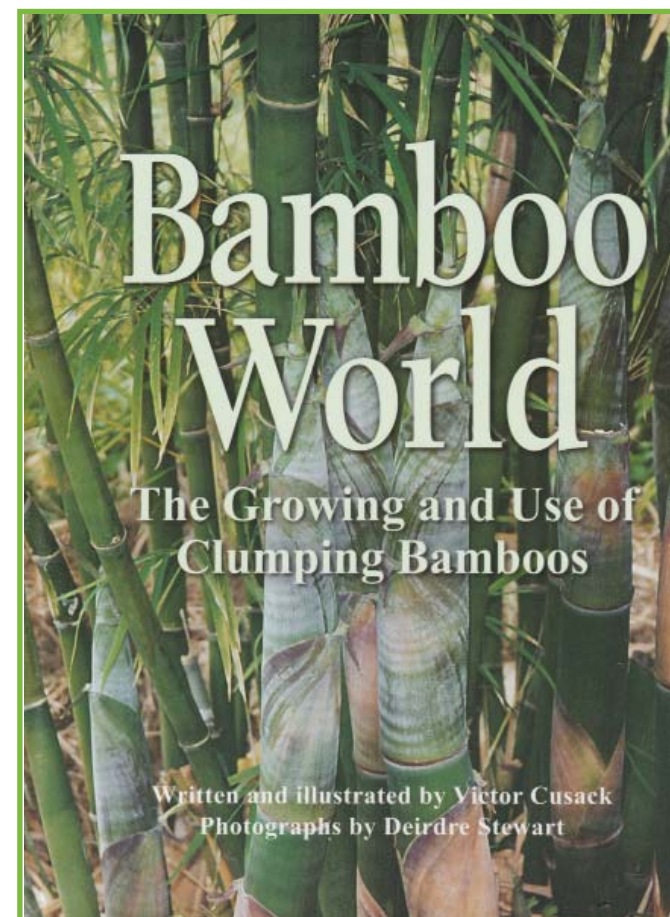
Reference:

Bamboo For Gardens by Ted Jordan Meredith, Timber Press.




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▲ Moso forest in China.

Photograph by Munir Vahanvati

Bamboo And Rattan Congress (BARC) 2018 Highlights

Author: Munir Vahanvati, Giant Grass

Contact: munir@giantgrassdesign.com

I had the pleasure of being invited to the first Bamboo and Rattan Congress (BARC) hosted by the International Network of Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) in Beijing, China. INBAR is an inter-governmental organization with more than 44 member countries and is headquartered in China. BARC 2018 was a gathering of more than 1200 people from across the globe with various government representatives and bamboo enthusiasts including members of the World Bamboo Organisation (WBO).

The congress was held over 3 days and included a

range of topics including: strategy; policy; south south cooperation; china's belt and road project; design; construction; and forest management. BARC 2018 featured speakers from across the globe including some renowned celebrities like John Hardy from the Green School and Gunther Pauli of the Blue Economy.

The congress also highlighted some of the bamboo related developments in China including bamboo rewinding technology to make bamboo piles and bamboo wind turbine blades.

▼ John Hardy talking about Green School at BARC 2018





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Bamboo pipes using bamboo-rewinding technology



High tech bamboo wind turbine blades

The congress included pavilions from various INBAR regions, namely Africa, South America, South Asia and China. The difference in the design aesthetic was quite evident with most regions focused on round bamboo construction whereas China forging ahead with laminated bamboo technology.



Yongan Exhibition booth and furniture



The congress was sponsored by the local government of Yongan, Yibin and Meishan which, had exhibition highlighting their local bamboo products. Yongan seems to be the hub of bamboo furniture and Meishan is the hub of weaving.



Meishan exhibition booth and some of their products



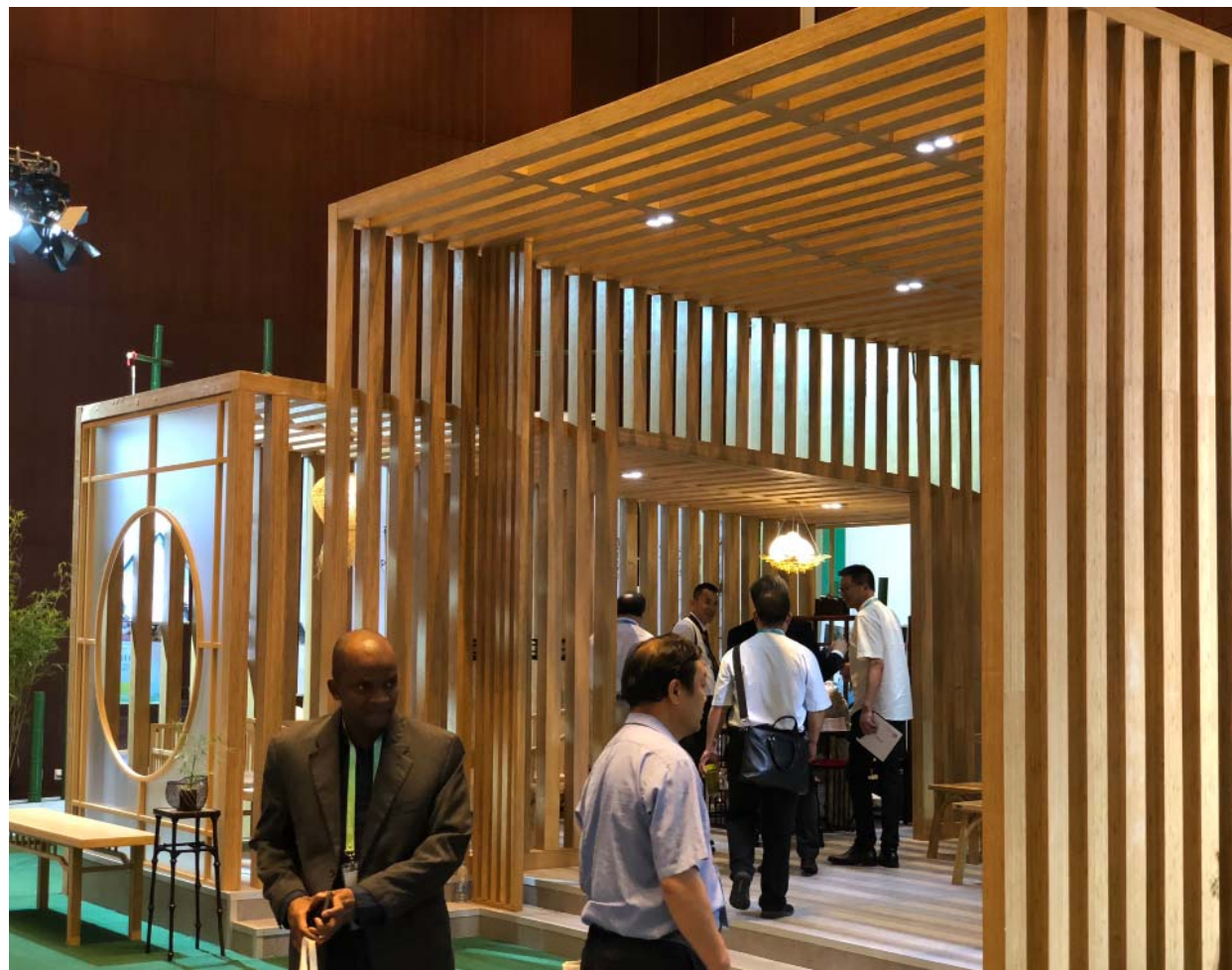
▲ *Bamboo pavilion from Africa*



▲ *Bamboo pavilion from South America*



▲ Bamboo pavilion from South Asia



▲ Bamboo pavilion from China

I was also invited to be on a panel discussion with a focus on bamboo design. The panel was chaired by Hans Freidrich, Director General of INBAR and included a variety of people.

The congress was also a great opportunity to meet up with other fellow bamboo enthusiasts. Australia was represented by Jaye Irving from Barefoot Design and myself from Giant Grass.

Overall, the congress was a huge success and there were calls for it to be made into an annual event. So if you are interested sign up for the INBAR newsletter at www.inbar.int and hope to see some more familiar faces at the congress next year.



▲ Munir with fellow panel members talking about bamboo design



▲ Dinner with fellow bamboo enthusiasts from around the world



Bambusa albostriata

AKA

B. multiplex albostriata

B. textilis cv. 'albostriata'

B. albostriata 'Goldstripe'

Cream Weavers Bamboo

Goldstripe Weavers

NB. The names used in this article may not be scientifically correct. They were the names most commonly used to identify this plant.

Origin:	China
Average Height:	12m
Culm Diameter:	50mm
Minimum Temperature:	0c

No other bamboo in Australia is available under so many different names. This can happen when there is confusion about a species identity when introduced. In his book *Bamboo World*, Victor Cusack, observing a young specimen, believed that it was actually *Bambusa multiplex* 'Silverstripe'. Both have striped culms and culm sheaths, 'Silverstripe' develops striped new leaves that fade to green when mature, but *albostriata* does not.

Durnford Dart of *Bamboo Australia*, introduced a specimen labelled *Bambusa eutuldoides* from New Zealand and in his *The Bamboo Handbook* he describes how he changed the name to *Bambusa multiplex* cv. 'creamstripe' as no forms of *eutuldoides* have blue on the underside of the leaf. This bamboo is still available under the name *eutuldoides* in Victoria. After obtaining one a few years ago I found its appearance and growth habit to be that of 'albostriata'. ▶

Some culms develop large auricles on the culm sheath, while others in the same clump may have small auricles or none at all.





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Bambusa albostrata

'Goldstripe'



'albostrata' was understandably placed in the *multiplex* family by some growers, with its fine young culms and the blue colour on the underside of the leaves. 'albostrata' does not suffer from the infestation of mealybug and resulting sooty mold that every member of the *multiplex* family does.



Typical growth habit of albostrata with its wide spaced culms.

Semi-mature albostrata growing in heavy clay producing only fine culms.



Sold in Queensland as 'Goldstripe' while in NSW is more likely to be found under the name 'creamstripe'.

'Goldstripe' appears to be a form of *B. albostrata* the only difference being the growth habit. When grown in heavy clay both forms develop only fine culms, *albostrata* splaying into a vase shape, with 'Goldstripe' remaining very erect.

When grown in fertile soil, *albostrata* quickly jumps in culm size, while 'Goldstripe' remains smaller for longer, but eventually will increase in culm size. 'Goldstripe' is more popular grown close together as a screen where competition between plants keeps them small.

Typical growth habit of 'Goldstripe' with its tight clumping habit and below semi-mature 'Goldstripe' growing in heavy clay producing fine culms.





◀ *Mature B. albostrata.*

▶ *Mature B. 'Goldstripe'.*



Drepanostachyum khasianum continues to flower

Good spring rain on the east coast this year has seen more khasianum in flower and seeds from last year are growing well.

khasianum is a mountain bamboo tolerating temperatures down to -9c and the seedlings have thrived during winter reaching a metre tall.





Innovative bamboo furniture designs from Yongan province

Author: Munir Vahanvati, Giant Grass

Contact: munir@giantgrassdesign.com

During my recent visit to China as part of the BARC 2018 conference, I had the opportunity to visit some bamboo factories in Jiangxi and Yongan province. Yongan was one of the sponsors for the BARC 2018 and has invested significantly in growing the bamboo, production and manufacturing in the region.

It has recently finished work on stage one of a Bamboo Tourist Centre, which includes a huge exhibition area of various bamboo furniture designs that were developed as part of a design competition. This article provides a visual gallery to some of the most interesting furniture design ideas.

▼ Yongan Bamboo Tourist Centre



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Both pages: More innovative bamboo furniture designs from Yongan province.



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Gigantochloa atrovioleacea

Common name 'Java Black'

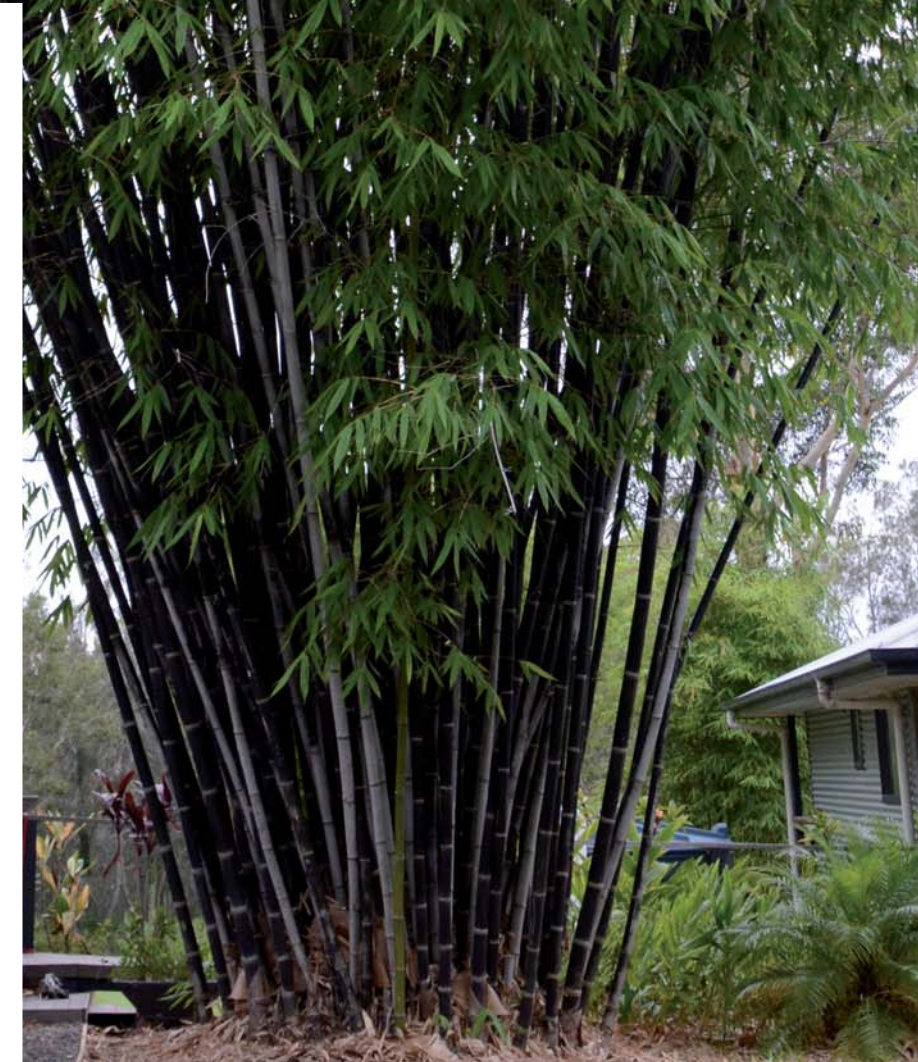
Origin: Java
 Average Height: 16m
 Culm Diameter: 100mm
 Minimum Temperature: -2c

A very erect, sooty, black-culmed bamboo which retains its black colour after harvesting, is much valued for furniture and musical instrument making in Java. The culms, sometimes with green coloured stripes on lower internodes, are exposed and leafless for some metres, then capped with dense downward pointing leaves. The dark hair covered shoot is edible.

This species is sometimes mistaken for *Bambusa lako* which it resembles. The culms of *B. lako* have a shiny surface, whereas those of *G. atrovioleacea* have more of a matt finish.

Reference:
Bamboo World by Victor Cusack.

Opposite page: ►
 Mature *atrovioleacea* and (inset) natural variation known as *reverse atrovioleacea*, sold as *G. atrovioleacea* var. *watupawan*.





G. atrovioleacea var. *watupawan*.



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Phyllostachys bambusoides f. *castillonis*



Phyllostachus aurea