PLANT FACT SHEET

Caryota ophiopellis Dowe

GENUS *Caryota* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Snakeskin fishtail palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Starch, Shoots, Cabbage, Terminal buds

The stem starch can be extracted and used as food.

DESCRIPTION

A palm with a single stem. It grows 7-8 m high. The trunk is 30-40 cm across. The leaves are twice divided. The leaf stalks are 60-70 cm long. The leaf stalks have a banding like a snake skin. The flowering stalk branches. The flowering shoots carry both male and female flowers. The plants dies after flowering. The fruit are red when ripe. The seeds are 1 cm long and black.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the lowland rainforest. It grows in the southern islands in Vanuatu on Tanna. It grows from sea level to 400 m altitude. It is often close to the ocean with salt spray and high winds. It is best grown in part shade. It needs a moist well drained soil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds.

REFERENCES

Dupuyoo, J., 2005, Ethnobotanical notes on Caryota ophiopellis in Vanuatu. Palms. Vol. 49(2)

Lebot, V. & Sam, C., Green desert or 'all you can eat'? How diverse and edible was the flora of Vanuatu before human introductions?. Terra australis 52 p 409

Walter, A. & Lebot, V., 2007, Gardens of Oceania. ACIAR Monograph No. 122. p 125

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/052c4193-c4de-47b1-94ae-2ecd2e82a686