PLANT FACT SHEET

Cyathea rebeccae (F. von Mueller) Domin

GENUS *Cyathea* **FAMILY** Cyatheaceae

COMMON NAMES Rebecca Tree Fern, Black tree fern

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: stem - starch, Fronds, Leaves

Starch can be extracted from the upper stem.
The young uncurled fronds can be used.

DESCRIPTION

A slender tree fern. It grows up to 7 m high. The trunk is woody and 10 cm across. It is fibrous at the base. The top section is covered with frond bases. The leaves are twice divided and dark green and glossy. They are 3 m long by 0.5 m wide. The stalk is dark and covered with scales. The fertile leaflets are slightly smaller than the sterile ones.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows naturally in coastal scrubs in Northeast Queensland in Australia. It grows at all altitudes in the tropical rainforest. It grows up to 1700 m altitude. It cannot tolerate frosts. It needs protection from wind.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from spores and from offsets or suckers.

NOTES

There are about 800 Cyathea species.

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