PLANT FACT SHEET

Myrtillocactus cochal (Orcutt) Britton & Rose

GENUS *Myrtillocactus* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Cochal

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A tree like cactus. It has dense branches. The trunk is usually short. The plant grows 1-3 m high. The stems are blue-green with 5 to 6 ribs. They may or may not have a central spine. There are 5-6 black spines in a ring. The flowers are pale green to white. They open during the day and night. They are 2.5 cm long and 2.5 cm wide. The fruit are round and red. They are 1.2-1.8 cm across. They are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. It suits arid places.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Anderson, E.F., 2001, The Cactus Family, Timber Press. p 473

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 909

Fouqué, A. 1972. Espèces fruitières d'Amérique tropicale. Institut français de recherches fruitierès outre-mer

Hernandez-Lopez, D., et al, 2008, Myrtillocactus (cactaceae): botanical, agronomic, physicochemical and chemical charasteristics of fruits. Fruits, Vol. 63, p. 269-276

Kermath, B. M., et al, 2014, Food Plants in the Americas: A survey of the domesticated, cultivated and wild plants used for Human food in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. On line draft. p 566

Moerman, D. F., 2010, Native American Ethnobotany. Timber Press. p 352

Nabhan, G. P., et al, 2022, Reviving the Arid American Diet in the Face of Climate Change: Assessing its Composition, Links to the Mesomerican Diet and Potential to Advance Indigenous Health and Diabetes Prevention. International Journal of Water Resources and Arid Environments 11(2): 81-112

Segura, S. et al, 2018, The edible fruit species in Mexico. Genet Resour Crop Evol (2018) 65:1767–1793

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/13faecab-d57f-43f3-a74f-fbe2544c6402