PLANT FACT SHEET

Bactris plumeriana Mart.

GENUS *Bactris* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Coco macaco

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A palm which forms clusters. The trunks are 8-10 m high and 12 cm across. The stems are dark. There are dark rings of long black spines. There are 7-12 leaves. The leaves are 2.6 m long. They are covered with black spines. The spines on the leaf stalk are in 3 rows. There are 50-70 leaflets on each side of the leaf. The leaflets grow at different angles. This gives the leaves a feathery appearance. The leaflets are spiny on the edges. The flowering stalk has 40-60 flowering branches. The bracts is black and spiny. The fruit are round and 1-1.6 cm across. They are orange-red.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows along the edges of hilly evergreen forest. It is usually below 500 m altitude.

NOTES

There are 239 Bactris species. There are 75 species in tropical America. Most Bactris have fruit that are edible but many are not attractive.

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