PLANT FACT SHEET

Vonitra utilis Jum.

GENUS *Vonitra* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Palm heart, Cabbage, Bud, Vegetable

The fruit pulp is sweet and edible.

DESCRIPTION

A robust palm. It can be solitary or in a clump. It grows 6-17 m high. The trunk is 25 cm across. The trunk branches 2 or 3 times at 9-11 m above the ground. The branches are closely parallel. They are 25-37 cm across. The trunks are light brown and the leaf base fibres hang from the top of the trunk. The crown forms a half circle. The leaves are 3.1-4 m long with 60-100 cm long stalks. The leaves twist in the middle meaning the leaflets become arranged at a different angle. The leaflets are 50-80 cm long and narrowly sword shaped. They are pinkish orange when new but become deep green.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in low mountainous rainforest. It suits humid locations. It is usually along streams and rivers. It needs plenty of water. It needs full sun after the seedling stage.

NOTES

There are 140 Dypsis species.
It is rare.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Balick, M.J. and Beck, H.T., (Ed.), 1990, Useful palms of the World. A Synoptic Bibliography. Colombia p 122 (As Vonitra utilis)

Dransfield, J. & Beentje, H., 1995, The Palms of Madagascar. Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew and The International Palm Society. p 363 (As Dypsis utilis)

Grubben, G. J. H. and Denton, O. A. (eds), 2004, Plant Resources of Tropical Africa 2. Vegetables. PROTA, Wageningen, Netherlands. p 561 (As Dypsis utilis)

Haynes, J., & McLaughlin, J., 2000, Edible palms and Their Uses. University of Florida Fact sheet MCDE-00-50-1 p 6 (As Dypsis utilis)

Jardin, C., 1970, List of Foods Used In Africa, FAO Nutrition Information Document Series No 2.p 111, 169 (As Vonitra utilis)

Johnson, D.V., 1998, Tropical palms. Non-wood Forest products 10. FAO Rome. p 114 (As Dypsis utilis)

Riffle, R.L. & Craft, P., 2003, An Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms. Timber Press. p 333 (As Dypsis utilis)

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (As Dypsis utilis)

Zona, S., Heart of Palm Use: A Family Survey. p 4 (As Dypsis utilis)

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/2d4257a8-6920-4b92-aff5-d6ccfe07e616