PLANT FACT SHEET

Phytelephas aequatorialis Spruce

GENUS *Phytelephas* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Vegetable ivory, Corozo

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Palm heart, Seeds, Nut

The liquid inside the young fruit is drunk.
The young seeds are edible.

DESCRIPTION

A solitary palm. It grows to 16 m high. The trunk is 30 cm across. The leaf crown is large and round. The dead leaves hang beneath the living leaves. The leaves are 5-6 m long. They are on short stout leaf stalks. There are a large number of leaflets. They grow in small groups and often at slightly different angles. The leaflets at the centre are 60-100 cm long. The leaflets are the base and tip are shorter. They are deep green on both surfaces and hang down slightly.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in lowland rainforest. In the Andes it grows up to 1660 m altitude. It suits humid regions. In Townsville Queens BG and palmetum.

NOTES

There are about 6 Phytelephas species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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