PLANT FACT SHEET

Aiphanes grandis Borchsenius & Balslev

GENUS *Aiphanes* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Chonta, Large ruffle palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Palm heart, Seeds, Cabbage, Seed - drink

The palm heart is eaten raw or cooked.
The fruit are boiled in water then the seeds are puried and cooked with sugar cane.

DESCRIPTION

A large palm. The stems are solitary. They are 10-21 m tall. The trunk is 17 cm across. It has very long black spines. There are 7-10 leaves. There are many leaflets arranged in clusters of 5-8. The middle ones are 80 cm long and 8 cm wide. The bract around the flowering stalk is long and woody. It has spines. There are about 200 flowering branches. The fruit hang down. The fruit are round and 2-2.3 cm across. They are dull green. They have soft, black easily removed small spines.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in humid regions. It grows between 1100 and 1700 m altitude in Ecuador.

NOTES

There are about 38 Aiphanes species. They grow in tropical America.

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