PLANT FACT SHEET

Pandanus polycephalus Lam.

GENUS *Pandanus* **FAMILY** Pandanaceae

COMMON NAMES Small pandanus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Bracts

The young white leaves are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A small erect tree. It forms clumps. It grows 4 m tall. The stems are slender and branched. They are greyish-green and spiny. It has prop roots 40 cm long and slender. The leaves are strap like and dark green above and pale green underneath. They are in rings arranged in spirals. They are 60-85 cm long and 3-4 cm wide. They have sharp spines along the edges. Male and female flowers are on separate plants. Male flowers have a scent. The fruiting body is in a spike 30-35 cm long with 4-7 heads arranged in a group. The fruiting head is round and 7 cm long by 4.5-4.8 cm wide. The fruit is fleshy and bright red when mature.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs in Maluku in Indonesia. It grows near seashores in thickets. It can be in swampy places and mangroves.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

NOTES

There are about 600 Pandanus species. They grow in the tropics.

REFERENCES

Borrell, O.W., 1989, An Annotated Checklist of the Flora of Kairiru Island, New Guinea. Marcellin College, Victoria Australia. p 40

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 2 (I-Z) p 1673

Encycl. 1:372. 1785

Keim, A.P., 2009, Pandanaceae of the island of Yapen, Papua (West New Guinea). Blumea 54, 2009: 255-266

Kitalong, A. H., DeMeo, R. A., & Holm, T., 2013, A Field Guide to the Native Trees of Palau. 2nd edition. USDA p126 (As Pandanus aimiriikensis)

Martin, F.W. & Ruberte, R.M., 1979, Edible Leaves of the Tropics. Antillian College Press, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. p 211

Styger, E., et al, 1999, Indigenous fruit trees of Madagascar: potential components of agroforestry systems to improve human nutrition and restore biological diversity. Agroforestry Systems 46: 289-310 (As Pandanus freycinetioides)

Sukarya, D. G., (Ed.) 2013, 3,500 Plant Species of the Botanic Gardens of Indonesia. LIPI p 744

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

www.pngplants.org

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/58e2eea4-6229-40fb-9507-41452729be3e