PLANT FACT SHEET

Plectocomiopsis geminiflora (Griff.) Becc.

GENUS *Plectocomiopsis* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Rattan palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Palm heart, Cabbage, Shoots

CAUTION: The fruit and seed contain alkaloids or saponins.
The shoots are cooked and eaten as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A cane or rattan. It can grow 30 m long. It has several shoots. The cane is almost triangle shaped in cross section. It has leaflets along the stalk. The stalks die after fruiting. The stems are spiny. The male and female flowers are on separate plants. They climb by a tendril. The flowering stalk grows from the end nodes of the stem. It has one thick main axis and two branches which hang down. The female plants produce fig shaped scaly fruit.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Indochina it grows in evergreen forest between 200-800 m altitude.

NOTES

There are 5 Plectocomiopsis species.

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