PLANT FACT SHEET

Bactris setulosa H. Karst.

GENUS *Bactris* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Chonta

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Palm heart, Fruit, Cabbage

DESCRIPTION

A palm with many stems. Occasionally it can be a solitary palm. It has black spines. It grows 5-10 m tall and the stems are 6-10 cm across. There are 4-9 leaves. The leaf stalk has spines in clusters. They are 4 cm long. There are 45-60 leaflets on each side of the leaf. These are arranged irregularly and spread in slightly different planes. The flowering stalk has 39-60 flowering branches. The bract is covered with black spines. These are 1.5 cm long. The fruit are oval. They are 1.8-2 cm across. They are red-orange.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows between 100 and 1400 m altitude in Ecuador. It is most common between 500 to 1500 m altitude.

NOTES

There are 239 Bactris species. There are 75 species in tropical America. Most Bactris have fruit that are edible but many are not attractive.

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