PLANT FACT SHEET

Phoenix roebelenii O'Brien

GENUS *Phoenix* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Dwarf date palm, Pygmy date palm, Roebelen Date, Roebelin palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A small palm. The trunk is slender and it grows about 2 m tall. It has a single trunk but forms clusters in the wild. The trunk is 10 cm across. It is covered with old leaf bases. The fronds are dark green and arch over. They form a feathery crown. The lower ones hang down. They are about 1.5 m long. The leaves are spiny. The leaflets are narrow and shiny green. They are evenly spaced and hang down. Plants are separately male and female. Both are needed for fruit. The flower stalks are produced among the leaves. The flowers are creamy yellow. The fruit are 12 mm long. The fruit are edible. They have a thin layer of edible flesh.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It suits coastal subtropical places. It also grows in Mediterranean and temperate regions. It can grow in sunny or shady locations. It is hardy and drought tolerant once established. It grows along the Mekong River. Wittunga Botanical Gardens. It suits plant hardiness zones 10-12. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seed grow easily. They take 3 months to germinate.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Seedlings grow at a steady rate. The fruit weigh 0.2 g.

PICTURES



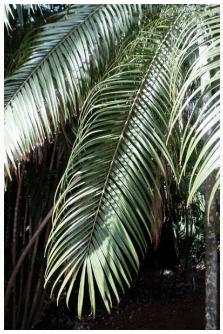
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