PLANT FACT SHEET

Hydriastele vitiensis W. J. Baker & Loo

GENUS *Hydriastele* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Palm heart, Cabbage

The palm heart is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tall palm. It grows 25 m high. The trunk is smooth and slender. It is grey-brown and 30 cm across. The crown has 20 or more fronds. The fronds arch over and the leaflets stick upwards. The fronds can be 2.5 m long. The crown-shaft is long and fattened. It is light green-brown. The flowers come out below the crown-shaft. The flower stalk is compact and fans out like a horse's tail. It is creamy-yellow. The young fruit are red and become yellow to white when ripe. The fruit are small and 10 mm long. They are slightly curved.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows naturally on Viti Levu in Fiji. It usually grows on ridges between 300-600 m altitude. It probably needs planty of moisture, good drainage and good soil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. Seed germinate readily within 2 months.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Seedlings grow slowly.

NOTES

There are about 42 Hydriastele species with 32 in New Guinea.

REFERENCES

Watling, D., 2005, Palms of the Fiji Islands. Environmental Consultants (Fiji) Ltd. p 102, 165

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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