PLANT FACT SHEET

Chamaedorea graminifolia H. Wendl.

GENUS *Chamaedorea* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Chapai, Monkeytail pacaya, Pacaya

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Fruit

The flower is cooked in egg batter.
The fruit are eaten fresh when ripe. They are also fried in lard and eaten with tortillas.

DESCRIPTION

A palm. The stems are in clusters. They are 3 m tall and 2-3 cm across. There are 4-6 leaves. They have leaflets along the stalk. There are 22-42 leaflets on each side. The leaflets are narrow. They are arranged regularly and in the same plane. The few leaflets at the base can be clustered and spread in different planes. The leaflets are 40 cm long and 1.5-2.5 cm wide. The flowering stalk is erect and male and female flowers are similar. There are 10-35 flowering branches. The fruit are round and 0.6-1 cm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in rainforest often on limestone soils. It grows between 700-1500 m altitude in Central America.

NOTES

There are about 100 Chamaedorea species. They are mostly in Central America. There are 77 species in tropical America.

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