PLANT FACT SHEET

Peniocereus johnstonii Britton & Rose

GENUS *Peniocereus* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Matraca, Pitayita, Saramatraca

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A cactus. The plant is shrubby or climbs. It has a few branches. It grows 3 m high. The roots are large and fleshy like a tuber. The stems are slender and delicate. They are 1-2 cm across. There are 3-5 ribs with a wavy edge. The spines are dark brown. There are 1-3 central spines and these are 4-8 mm long. There are 8-11 spines around these. The flowers are funnel shaped and open at night. They are white and have a scent. They are 15 cm long. The fruit are oval and 6 cm long. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

It is a desert plant. It needs well drained soil but little water.

REFERENCES

Anderson, E.F., 2001, The Cactus Family, Timber Press. p 563

www.desert-tropicals.com

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

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/9d30a00c-2e32-4f36-84fd-d0b03a1a7a95