PLANT FACT SHEET

Mauritia carana Wallace

GENUS *Mauritia* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Carana

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

A juice is prepared from the fruit. It is eaten wit cassava meal and sugar.

DESCRIPTION

A palm. It grows to 17 m tall. The trunk can be 30 cm across. It has many dead leaves and fibres below the crown. There are 6-12 leaves. The leaves are like fingers on a hand and 2m long by 3.1 m wide. There are fewer segments and they hang downwards. The leaf bases are clothed in a mass of fibres. The leaves are split into 150 leaflets. The flowering stalks are smaller than Mauritia flexuosa. They are 3-4 m long. There are 16-36 flowering branches. The fruit are rounded. They are 4.5-7 cm across. They are reddish-brown. The fruit are oily.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in rainforest and wet savannas. It also grows along rivers at low elevations. They are often on poorly drained white sandy soil.

NOTES

There are 2 (50) Mauritia species. They are feather palm in tropical America.

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