PLANT FACT SHEET

Cycas thouarsii R. Br. ex. Gaudich.

GENUS *Cycas* **FAMILY** Cycadaceae

COMMON NAMES African cycas

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Trunk, Seeds, Fruit, Pith

DESCRIPTION

A palm like plant. It grows up to 10 m. It is unbranched. The leaves are 1-3 m long. The leaflets are long and slender and 30 cm long by 1 cm wide. The midrib is yellow and there are no secondary veins. The edge of the leaf does not have teeth but there are some spines near the tip. Male and female cones are on separate trees. The male cones are yellow-orange and 60 cm long by 20 cm wide. The scales are close and wedge shaped. The female cones consist of loose, spirally arranged scales. They are covered with dense woolly hairs. The seeds are almost round and 6 cm long by 5 cm wide. They are brick-red in colour. The plant has a long tap root.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in a hot humid location. In the Cairns Botanical Gardens. Brisbane Botanical Gardens. It grows in light shade. It is very frost tender. In Townsville palmetum.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed. It can be grown from suckers.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing.

NOTES

There are about 20-40 Cycas species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Dale & Greenway, 1981,

Grivetti, L. E., 1980, Agricultural development: present and potential role of edible wild plants. Part 2: Sub-Saharan Africa, Report to the Department of State Agency for International Development. p 47

Jardin, C., 1970, List of Foods Used In Africa, FAO Nutrition Information Document Series No 2.p 13, 42, 131

Jones, D.L., 2000, Cycads of the world. Reed New Holland. p 159

Palgrave, K.C., 1996, Trees of Southern Africa. Struik Publishers. p 44

Peters, C. R., O'Brien, E. M., and Drummond, R.B., 1992, Edible Wild plants of Sub-saharan Africa. Kew. p 7

Schatz, G.E., 2001, Generic Tree Flora of Madagascar. Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew and Missouri Botanical Garden. p 123

Voy. Uranie 434. 1829 "thuarsii"

Walsh, M., 2009, The Use of Wild and Cultivated Plants as famine Foods on Pemba Island, Zanzibar. Études océan Indien. 42-43

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/a0a0af2f-4cd8-42fc-9486-a7acac75b3be