PLANT FACT SHEET

Metroxylon amicarum (H. A. Wendl.) Becc.

GENUS *Metroxylon* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Caroline ivory nut palm, Polynesian ivory palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Starch

Sago starch is extracted from the pith.

DESCRIPTION

A solitary palm. It grows 20 m tall. There are normally old leaves around the trunk. There are widely spaced leaf scars on older trunks. The leaf crown is half round. The leaves are 5 m long with leaf stalks 1 m long. There are many leaflets 1 m long. They are dark green and grow at several angles giving a feathery appearance. The leaves are spiny. The trunk does not die after flowering. The flowering stalk arises amongst the leaves and hangs downwards as the fruit develop. The fruit are 12 cm long by 10 cm across. They have glossy brown scales. They are brown when ripe. The seeds have a hard kernel.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows on forested slopes and valleys in the mountains. It grows in standing water or wet locations. In the Cairns Botanical Gardens.

NOTES

There are 5-8 Metroxylon species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/a5a121c7-10a3-405d-8d5c-2159af1f1ed4