PLANT FACT SHEET

Astrocaryum acaule Mart.

GENUS *Astrocaryum* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Tucuma-i, Corozo, Espina

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Fruit - oil

DESCRIPTION

A solitary palm. The trunk is short and often underground. It can be 1 m tall. There are 5-9 leaves. There are 55-103 leaflets on each side of the leaf. These are arranged irregularly in clusters and they spread in different planes. The flowering stalk is erect. The bract around the flowering stalk is mottled brown and white. It is covered with black spines. There are flowering branches with 2-3 female flowers near the base. The fruit are oval. They are 2.5-3 cm long and 1.5-2 cm wide. They are yellow-green to orange when ripe. They are smooth. They are fibrous and fleshy.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in lowland rainforest especially along stream banks. It is often on white-sand soils.

NOTES

There are about 40-50 Astrocaryum species. The fruit are rich in Vitamin A.

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