PLANT FACT SHEET

Oenocarpus bataua Mart.

GENUS *Oenocarpus* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Pataua palm, Bataua

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Cabbage, Palm heart, Seeds - oil, Flower

The fruit are used to extract an edible oil.
The fruit are also used for drinks. This is made by boiling the fruit to give a milky drink. This tastes like chocolate.

DESCRIPTION

A palm with a straight trunk. It grows to 20 m high. The trunk can be 15-25 cm across. It has a large crown. The fronds are long and glossy. They can be 10 m long. The leaflets droop. The leaflets are green above and silvery underneath. The new leaves are red. The flowering stalk has drooping side stalks which look like a horse's tail. There are several flowers at the one time. The flowers are creamy white and fragrant. The fruit are heavy and purple-black. They are 2.5-3.5 cm long by 2-2.5 cm across. There can be 500-4000 fruit is a cluster.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows best in the tropics but will grow in the warm subtropics. It is often in swampy or flooded areas. It grows up to 1,150 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing. A fruit cluster can weigh 2-32 kg. Adult palms can produce 2 fruit clusters per year.

NOTES

There are 9 Oenocarpus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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