PLANT FACT SHEET

Voanioala gerardii J. Dransf.

GENUS *Voanioala* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Voa-nio-ala

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Palm heart, Cabbage

DESCRIPTION

A solitary palm. It grows 15-20 m tall. It has a large root boss about 1 m across. The trunk is about 35 cm across. It is brown with indented rings of leaf base scars. The leaf crown is less than a half circle. The leaves are 5 m long. The leaflets are dark green and leathery. They are 1.6 m long. They are regularly spaced and stiff. The flowering stalk is 1.6 m long. It grows erect from the leaf crown but bends over with fruit. The mature fruit are bright red. They are 9 cm long. There are fibres over the seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in swampy valley bottoms at about 400 m altitude in Madagascar.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is slow growing.

NOTES

There is only one Voanioala species.

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

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