PLANT FACT SHEET

Phytelephas seemannii O. F. Cook

GENUS *Phytelephas* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Tagua, Seemann ivory palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Palm hearts, Seeds

The young fruit is used as a drink.
The mature fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A palm. The stems occur singly and are creeping. They form roots on the lower surface. The older section of the stems can die. It grows 4 m tall. The trunk is 30 cm across. It has many close leaf scars. There are 25-35 leaves. The leaves are 7 m long. There are 90 leaflets along each side. They are arranged regularly and are in one plane. The male flowers do not have stalks. The fruiting heads are 30 cm across. There are 5-9 fruit. There are 5-7 seeds per fruit.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. They grow in lowland rainforest. They grow on alluvial soils under forest shade. They grow below 200 m altitude.

REFERENCES

Balick, M.J. and Beck, H.T., (Ed.), 1990, Useful palms of the World. A Synoptic Bibliography. Colombia p 50

Henderson, A., Galeano, G and Bernal, R., 1995, Field Guide to the Palms of the Americas. Princeton. p 237

Grandtner, M. M. & Chevrette, J., 2013, Dictionary of Trees, Volume 2: South America: Nomenclature, Taxonomy and Ecology. Academic Press p 496

Kermath, B. M., et al, 2014, Food Plants in the Americas: A survey of the domesticated, cultivated and wild plants used for Human food in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. On line draft. p 653

Marcia, M. J., et al, 2011, Palm Uses in Northwestern South America: A Quantitative Review. Bot. Rev. (2011) 77:462-570

Roa, J. A. G. & Boada, D. S. G., 2018, Fundación para el Fortalecimiento de la Fruticultura y Plantas Alimenticias no Convencionales en Colombia.

U.S.D.A. Bur. Pl. Industr. Bull. 242:68. 1912

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/d1d6c464-e946-4260-8210-3d4be6956e20