PLANT FACT SHEET

Calamus acanthospathus Griff.

GENUS *Calamus* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots, Fruit

The ripe fruit are eaten raw.
The shoots are pounded, fermented, sun dried and then stored for the dry season. The shoots or young leaves are cooked as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A climbing palm or rattan. It can have a single stem or be in small clusters. It climbs 30 m long and in 2-5 cm wide. The leaf sheath is green with brown hairs. It has flattened spines 1 cm long. The leaf stalk is 1.4 m long with 8-15 leaflets on each side. The middle ones are 18-30 cm long by 4-7 cm wide. The fruit are yellowish brown and oval. They are 2.5 cm long by 1.5 cm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Indochina it grows between about 1,500 - 1,800 m altitude. It is in evergreen forest. In southern China is grows in lowland forests between 800-2,400 m above sea level. In Yunnan.

NOTES

There are 375-400 Calamus species. There are 175 species in tropical Asia. It is used in medicine.

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