PLANT FACT SHEET

Calamus aruensis Becc.

GENUS *Calamus* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Papuan white rattan

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

Unknown what part is edible. Possibly flesh of fruit.

DESCRIPTION

A vigorous climbing palm 10-15 m tall. The stems are 2.5 cm wide. It can be 26 m long. It produces side roots at the nodes and can have stilt roots at the base. The stalk usually ends with a tendril like structure up to 1 m long. The fronds are 3-4 m long and usually without a leaf stalk. The sheath around the stem is armed with spines up to 4 cm long. The leaflets are 20-40 in number and are broad, long, smooth and dark green. They are 25 cm long. They have small spines along the main veins towards the base of the leaflet. The flower branch is a large hanging branched flower stalk. The fruit are 0.8-1.2 cm across and cream in colour.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is very frost sensitive. It is mostly found growing in lowland rainforest. It needs a shady position and well-drained soil. It is often along stream banks. It suits the wet tropics.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. Seed germinate in 3-4 months. Seed should be sown fresh.

NOTES

There are 375-400 Calamus species. There are 175 species in tropical Asia.

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/ee4850ab-7bd3-4ae9-b14c-e3af8e2d202f