PLANT FACT SHEET

Oenocarpus bataua var. oligocarpus (Griseb. & H. Wendl.) Balick

GENUS *Oenocarpus* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Turu palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Palm heart, Cabbage, Oil

The fruit are used to extract an edible oil.
The fruit are used to make a drink. It has a chocolate flavour.
The flesh of the fruit can be eaten after the hard shell is removed.

DESCRIPTION

A palm with a single trunk. It grows 26 m tall. The trunk is 30 cm across. There is a small group of slender roots at the base. There are 9-20 leaves. At the beginning they point upwards and then later spread out. They are 3-11 m long with 70-163 leaflets on each side. The flowering shoots are below the leaves and they hang down. The fruit are purple to black and narrowly oval. They are 3.5 cm long by 2.5 cm wide. They have one seed.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in swampy areas that are occasionally flooded.

REFERENCES

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 579

Maas, P.J. M., Useful plants of Guyana. Non-Timber Forest Products of the North-West District of Guyana Part 1. p 103 (As Jessenia bataua subsp. oligocarpa)

Maas, P.J. M., Non-Timber Forest Products of the North-West District of Guyana Part 2. The 85 most important NTFP species. p 132 (As Jessenia bataua subsp. oligocarpa)

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

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/ef152c24-7921-45f7-93ca-e26aa29b06fa