PLANT FACT SHEET

Calamus muelleri H. Wendl.

GENUS *Calamus* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Wait-a-while, Southern Lawyer vine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fleshy layer of the fruit is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tall slender palm or rattan. It forms clumps and climbs. A number of stems arise each year from an underground rhizome. The stems are thorny. They are green but turn brown with age. Stems can be 10-15 m long. They can grow to 180 m long. Stems are about 1 cm wide. There are slender, flexible climbing structures growing from the leaf sheath opposite the leaf. These can be 1-2 m long and have backwards curving thorns. The leaves are distributed along the stem at fairly wide intervals. The leaves are 30-100 cm long divided into 10-19 leaflets along the stalk. These are dark green on both surfaces. The 4 leaflets at the end are in a group. The leaflets are 10-20 cm long and 15-20 mm wide. The flowering stalk is long and slender and hangs downwards. It has a thorny stalk at the end which can be 3 m long. Several flowering stalks normally occur on the same plant at the one time. The flowers are 3-4 mm across. Male and female flowers occur on separate plants. The fruit are cream or green and round. They are 8-15 mm across and covered with overlapping scales. They have a thin dry outer coat over one seed.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in wet rainforests. They do best in a warm, shady site. They need a rich, well-drained soil. They will tolerate mild frosts when older. Melbourne Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 9-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed which should be sown while fresh. Seed normally germinate within 6 months. Seedlings do not transplant easily.

NOTES

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

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Blomberry, A. & Rodd, T., 1982, Palms. An informative practical guide. Angus & Robertson. p 70

Cribb, A.B. & J.W., 1976, Wild Food in Australia, Fontana. p 63

Cronin, L., 1989, The Concise Australian Flora. Reed. p 234

Cronin, L., 2000, Australian Palms, Ferns, Cycads and Pandans. Cronin Publications. p 74

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 278

Edible and Useful Native Plants (off internet)

Greig, D., 1996, Flowering Natives for Home Gardens. Angus & Robertson. p 92

Haslam, S., 2004, Noosa's Native Plants. Noosa Integrated Catchment Assn. Inc. p 328

Hibbert, M., 2002, The Aussie Plant Finder 2002, Florilegium. p 48

Jones, D.L. & Gray, B., 1977, Australian Climbing Plants. Reed. p 82

Jones, D.L., 1994, Palms throughout the World. Smithtonian Institution, Washington. p 157

Jones, D.L., 2000, Palms of Australia 3rd edition. Reed/New Holland. p 81

Nicholson, N & H., 1996, Australian Rainforest Plants 3, Terania Rainforest Publishing. NSW. p 12

Riffle, R.L. & Craft, P., 2003, An Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms. Timber Press. p 285

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/f0cbd6a5-4431-4c8e-a379-070eb652a4df