



PLANT FACT SHEET

Calamus zollingeri subsp. merrillii (Becc.) A.J.Hend.

GENUS *Calamus* FAMILY Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Palasan

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots, Sap, Fruit

The bud is cooked and eaten.

The fleshy part of the fruit is eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A very robust climbing cane. It has slender stems which can be 60 m long. The fronds have leaflets along the stalk. These bear hooks which help the plant to climb. The young stem have many spines. The leaf sheaths are covered with slender very small pointed structures. The leaflets have long bristles especially on the midrib underneath. There is a whip like structure attached as part of the leaf. The fruit are round and the secondary bracts around the flower cluster are smooth. The fruit are white and about 1 cm across. They are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. They occur throughout the Philippines in forested areas. It does best in tropical conditions.

NOTES

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

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