



PLANT FACT SHEET

Attalea exigua Drude

GENUS *Attalea* FAMILY Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Babacu, Catole, Indaia rasteir

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The fruit are used to sweeten food. The seeds can be eaten raw or roasted.

DESCRIPTION

A palm. The stems are short and underground. They can be in clusters. There are 4-8 leaves. These arch over. The leaflets are arranged in clusters and spread in different planes. The flowering stalks are borne among the leaves. The male flowers have flattened petals. The fruit have 1-2 seeds. They are oval. The fruit are 4-6 cm long by 3-5.5 cm across. They are reddish-orange and become dark purple at maturity.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in open locations below 800 m altitude. It grows in dry forest on sandy soils especially near streams.

NOTES

There are between (22) 30-71 *Attalea* species. Some authorities divide them among *Attalea*, *Orbignya*, *Scheela* and *Maximiliana*.

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