

Caryota albertii F.Muell. ex H.Wendl. & Drude

Family:

Areceaceae

Wendland, H.A. & Drude, C.G.O. (1875) *Linnaea* 39: 221. Type: Australia, Cape York, Daemel.

Common name:

Native Fishtail Palm

Stem

Stem 10-18 m tall and up to 45 cm DBH. Dark tan to grey with widely spaced rings. Crownshaft absent.

Leaves

The leaf crown is large with 3-7 m long bipinnate dark green leaves, somewhat glaucous on abaxial surface. Petiole unarmed and up to 90 cm long. The leaflets are linearly obdeltoid to nearly linear, plicate, oblique and with jagged apices, up to 58 cm long and pendulous.

Flowers

Inflorescence pendulous, 1.5-2.0 m long, many branched, spikes with yellowish flowers. Two male flowers and a single female flower grouped together. Outer segments of the male flower imbricate, rotund, ciliate, 4-5 mm diam., three inner segments valvate, 12-14 mm long and very hard. Stamens 30+. The plant is monocarpic and dies after flowering.

Fruit

Fruit 2-3.5 cm long, round and dark red to blackish when mature. One to three smooth black seeds.

Seedlings

Features not available.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in CYP from the Mungkan Kandju National Park northwards. Altitudinal range from 60-300 m. Grows in lowland rainforest, vine forest and swamp forest. Also from the Philippines, Eastern Indonesia, New Guinea to the Solomon Islands.

Natural History & Notes

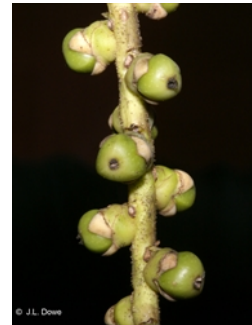
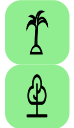
Used as a food source (Sago) in the Philippines and Eastern Indonesia. Often planted as an ornamental in Australia.

Synonyms

Caryota rumphiana var. *australiensis* Becc., *Malesia* 1: 74(1877). *Caryota rumphiana* var. *albertii* (F.Muell. ex H. Wendl.) F.M.Bailey, *Queensland Agric. J.* 1: 233(1897).

RFK Code

7025



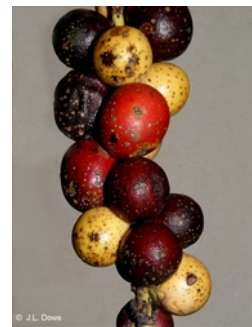
Female flowers [not vouchered]. ©

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Male flowers [not vouchered]. ©

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Mature fruit [not vouchered]. ©

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In lowland rainforest [not vouchered]. © J.L. Dowe



Leaf [not vouchered]. © J.L. Dowe



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