

# *Hydriastele costata* F.M.Bailey

## Family:

**Areceaceae**

Bailey, F.M. (1898) *Queensland Agricultural Journal* 2(2): 129. Type: Somerset, Cape York Peninsula, Nov. 1897, Frank L. Jardine.

## Common name:

Gulubia Palm

## Stem

Solitary palm to 35 m tall, to 40 cm dbh, expanded at base; leaf scars to 35 mm wide; internodes to 25 cm long, smooth, grey.

## Leaves

Usually 10-15 leaves, each to 4 m long, held out straight but lower ones tend to hang below horizontal; with 80-120 pinnae each side of rachis. Crownshaft to 150 cm long, light green suffused with lilac, with dense gray tomentum. Petiole 15-40 cm long; rachis to 350 cm long. Pinnae regularly arranged, to 127 cm long, acuminate, pendulous.

## Flowers

Inflorescence to 125 cm long, 40 cm wide. Flowers in threes, 1-2 male. Male flowers 10 mm in bud, not opening widely; sepals 1-1.5 mm x 1-1.5 mm, green; petals 9-10 mm x 3-5 mm, cream; stamens 6-24, 5-7 mm long; filaments 0.5 mm long; anthers 2-3 mm, bright yellow. Female flowers 1.5-3 x 2-3 mm in bud; sepals 0.2-0.5 x 0.5 mm, light green; petals 2-2.5 x 2-2.5 mm, cream-green; stigmas 0.2 mm long.

## Fruit

Fruit ovoid, 10 mm long x 5 mm diam.; longitudinally ridged, smooth, blue-grey to deep maroon, with broad cream to pink longitudinal markings. Fibres dense and thick. Seed ovoid, 4 mm long x 4 mm diam.

## Seedlings

Features not available.

## Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in the CYP, uncommon from Lockerbie Scrub to Iron Range. Altitudinal range from 0-90 m. Grows on the banks of rivers, along creeks and gulleys in Monsoon Forest, open eucalypt forest, open woodland and in grass-covered floodplains. Also in New Guinea.

## Natural History & Notes

Distinguished from other species of *Hydriastele* by the solitary habit, regularly arranged, pendulous pinnae, the straight leaves and fruit to 10 mm long.

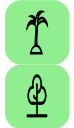
## Synonyms

***Gulubia costata* (Becc.) Becc.**, *Annales de Jardin Botanique de Buitenzorg* 2: 134(1885).

***Gulubia costata* var. *gracilior* Burret**, *Notizblatt des Botanischen Gartens und Museums zu Berlin-Dahlem* 13: 81(1936), Type: Papua New Guinea, Oriomo R., Woroi, Brass 5887 (holotype B; isotype BO, BRI). ***Gulubia costata* (Becc.) Becc. var. *costata***, *Notizblatt des Botanischen Gartens und Museums zu Berlin-Dahlem* 13: 81(1936). ***Kentia costata* Becc.**, *Malesia* 1: 36(1877), Type: Indonesia, Aru Island, 1873, O. Beccari 11152.

## RFK Code

7024



Female flowers after flowering [not vouchered]. © J.L. Dowe



Male and female flowers [not vouchered]. © J.L. Dowe



Fruit, whole and in longitudinal section [not vouchered]. © J.L. Dowe



Mature fruit [not vouchered]. © J.L. Dowe



Fruit. © CSIRO



Inflorescence bracts, prophyll (left) and peduncular bract (right) [not vouchered]. © J.L. Dowe



In lowland swamp forest [not vouchered]. © J.L. Dowe

