Laccospadix australasicus H.Wendl. & Drude

Family:

Arecaceae

Wendland, H. & Drude, C.G.O. (1875) *Linnaea* 39: 206. Type: Australiae ora tropica orientalis, ubi ad sinum Rockingham Bay! haec Palma lecta est 8.Febr.1866 in tractibus montium litus comitantibus. N.W.Uh.

Common name:

Palm, Atherton; Palm, Black; Mountain Mist Palm; Black Palm; Atherton Palm; Palm, Mountain Mist

Stem

Usually grows more than 6 m tall but also flowers and fruits when smaller. Often multistemmed or with the stems in clumps.

Leaves

Petioles about 60 cm long. Leaflets sessile, 17-40 x 1.5-3 cm, major veins raised on the upper surface. Base of the leafletsca. folded lengthwise, convex on the upper surface. Compound leaf rhachis ca. triangular in transverse section, angular on the upper surface. Leaflets all discrete, even the apical ones.

Flowers

Flowers borne in spikes 30-200 cm long, on peduncles 40-50 cm long.

Fruit

Infructescences long and spike-like. Individual fruits 15-16 x 7-8 mm. Endosperm intrusions ca. orange in colour. Embryo white, ca. 1.5-2 mm long.

Seedlings

Seed germination time 77 to 382 days. Cataphylls sheath the stem. First pair of true leaves compound with two leaflets. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf compound with 3-7 leaflets, leaflet blades 10-15 x 1-1.5 cm, longitudinally veined, compound leaf petiole 8-10 cm long.

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to NEQ. Altitudinal range from 100-1600 m. Grows as an understory plant in wet mountain rain forests usually on soils derived from granite.

Synonyms

Calyptrocalyx australasicus Scheff., *Bulletin du Jardin Botanique de Buitenzorg* 1: 131(1876).

RFK Code

3252

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

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

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

Fruit. © Stanley Breeden

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Habit, leaves and fruit. © Stanley Breeden

In high-altitude rainforest [not vouchered]. © J.L. Dowe

10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

Cotyledon stage, hypogeal germination. © CSIRO

Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO

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