

CYCADACEAE

Cycas pectinata Buch.-Ham.

Common English name : Nepal Cycas.

Vernacular name : Asm.: Thaljimura.

Distribution : INDIA: Bihar, West Bengal (Darjeeling), Sikkim, Assam (Goalpara, Kamrup), Manipur, Meghalaya; CHINA; BANGLADESH; NEPAL; MYANMAR; MALAYSIA; THAILAND; LAOS and VIETNAM.



Habitat : Found in the Sal forests of Darjeeling and Sikkim, Someshwar hills and plains of Bihar and Khasia hills of Meghalaya.

Population status/Cause for RET : Vulnerable. Collected for attractive habit, megasporophylls have pectinate blades.

Description : Evergreen trees, 2.4-3 (-6.7) m tall; trunk sometimes forking. Leaves 1.5-2.1 m long; petiole ca 44.5 cm long, distantly spinous; leaflets 17.5-25 × 0.4-1.2 cm, narrow linear, subfalcate, flat at margins, pilose with deciduous hairs, especially on midrib. Male cone ca 45.5 × 15.2 cm, cylindrical-ovoid; microsporophylls 3.5-5 × 1-2.4 cm, shortly peduncled, deltoid, clavate, thickened, acumen ca 4 cm long, subulate, ascending. Megasporophylls 15-20 cm long, densely tawny-silky throughout; blade ca 7.5 cm wide, broadly orbicular; acumen ca 2.5 cm long; margins deeply subulate, pectinate, teeth 1-2 cm long, stalk as long as blade; 2 or 3 pairs of ovules above middle. Seeds ovoid, ca 3.8 cm long, glabrous, orange.

Parts used commercially : Tender fleshy shoots are eaten as vegetable in Assam and Meghalaya. Seeds are also edible.

Legal : Listed in Appendix II of CITES.

Reference :

Jain, S.K. & R.R. Rao (1983). An Assessment of Threatened Plants of India. P. 149.