

MONTGOMERY PALM

What are they called?

Scientific:

*Veitchia arecina
montgomeryana*

Other English:

Montgomery Palm

French:

Bislama:

Vernacular:

A little bit about them:

This tree is in the palm family. The Montgomery Palm was once thought to be a separate species but now botanists think that it belongs to the *Veitchia arecina* species.

Montgomery palms grow as tall canopy trees at low altitudes often in shallow soil, on coral substratum

or close to rivers and streams. They are also found in lowland rainforests up to 350m in elevation.

What do they look like?

A tall palm that reaches 30m in height with expanded base covered in small roots. The trunk is grey with a narrow green crownshaft (sheath) often over 1m long between trunk and leaves.

It has around 10 leaves with 60 leaflets per side. Flowers are white and bullet shaped (male) or rounded (female) up to 1cm. Fruit are red and oblong shaped.



Source: The Merwin Conservancy

Did you know?

- This palm is native to Vanuatu and thought to only be found on Efate.

- This palm is classified as Endangered (EN) by the IUCN but this might change now that it is a separate species.
- **Why are they threatened?**
- Land clearing for agriculture, forestry and settlement is a major threat to the small population.
- Historically, the palm heart has been used by European restaurants in Vanuatu.



Source: Patti J. Anderson

What do they do for us?

- Provide habitat and shelter for forest and coastal species of birds and animals.
- On a shoreline, they can help reduce erosion, as their roots help stabilise the sandy soil.

What can we do for them?

- ✓ Establish Community Conservation Areas that protect Montgomery Palm's natural habitat and register the CCA with the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC).
- ✓ Raise awareness of the threats to and benefits of this species in local communities.

Want to know more?

- ❖ Visit: www.iucnredlist.org
- ❖ Contact Vanuatu's Department of Forests

