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Dypsis decaryi

[Synonyms : *Neodypsis decaryi*]

TRIANGLE PALM is a palm. Native to Madagascar (particularly the south-west) it has distinctive three-sided, blue-grey bases to long arching green fronds (with thread-like lower leaflets called 'reins' hanging to the ground).

It is also known as Madagascar plum, and Three-sided palm.

Decaryi commemorates a French 20th Century administrator and plant collector, Raymond Decary, who spent many years in Madagascar.

Authorities note that triangle palm is a globally endangered species (not least due to over-harvesting).

The black fruit are marketed locally for food.

Triangle palm is held to be of significant importance for wildlife as a prized source of food during dry seasons.

Locally the leaves are still used for thatching.

At the turn of the 20th and 21st Centuries horticulturists have been encouraging cultivation of this palm as an ornamental plant in conducive regions.