

Cycas revoluta

Scientific classification

Kingdom : Plantae
Clade : Angiosperms
Order : Cycadales
Family : Cycadaceae
Genus : *Cycas*
Species : *C.revoluta*



Description

Cycas revoluta, sago palm, king sago, sago cycad, Japanese sago palm), is native to southern Japan including the Ryukyu Islands. This very symmetrical plant supports a crown of shiny, dark green leaves on a thick shaggy trunk that is typically about 20 cm in diameter, sometimes wider. The plant is very slow-growing and requires about 50–100 years to achieve this height. The leaves are a deep semiglossy green and about 50–150 cm long when the plants are of a reproductive age. Roots are called coralloid with an *Anabaena* symbiosis allowing nitrogen fixation. As with other cycads, it is dioecious, with the males bearing pollen cones (strobilus) and the females bearing groups of megasporophylls.

Uses

The leaves are used in the treatment of cancer and hepatoma, The terminal shoot is astringent and diuretic, The seed is emmenagogue, expectorant and tonic, It is used in the treatment of rheumatism, Substances extracted from the seeds are used to inhibit the growth of malignant tumours. A gum obtained from the plant has been used medicinally, particularly as an agent that is said to produce rapid suppuration when applied to malignant ulcers. The gum also has the reputation of being a good antidote for snake and insect bites.