

Pandanus

Pandanus tectorius



Adaptation to environment

- Tough leathery leaves conserve water, tolerant of salt & wind; sharp serrated leaves deter leaf feeders
- Branching prop roots provide stability against high wind
- Fruit segments covered with sweet fibrous pulp; seeds enclosed in hard tough capsule that can float to increase dispersal
- Tough capsule encloses numerous seeds; rats take capsule to safe place to gnaw through capsule to reach nuts leaving some seeds uneaten thereby increasing dispersal.

Where do I live?



Sandy Beaches



Frontal Dunes

What eats me?

- Flying foxes eat sweet fibrous outer covering of fruits
 - Cockatoos & rats extract seeds from hard capsule when attached to tree
 - Rats & crabs chew through outer covering & extract seeds after fruit has fallen
 - Aboriginal people ate seeds & white leaf bases.
- Small palm to 5 m • Long leaves to 1.5 m; arranged in spiral pattern; edges toothed • Large, orange, ball-shaped fruit to 40 cm diameter; breaks into segments • Large above-ground prop roots • Still used throughout Pacific by indigenous people to make mats, baskets, dilly-bags & sun-hats; trunks used to make rafts.