



Zuraida Ahmad

# SAGO

*(Metroxylon Rottb)*

*And Its Applications*

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# **Sago** **(*Metroxylan Rottb*)** **and Its Applications**

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Editor  
Zuraida Ahmad



IIUM Press

Published by  
IIUM Press  
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2011  
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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Zuraida Ahmad  
Sago (*Metroxylon Rottb*), and Its Applications  
Zuraida Ahmad  
Include Index  
ISBN 978-967-418-163-5

ISBN 978-967-418-163-5

Member of Majlis Penerbitan Ilmiah Malaysia - MAPIM  
(Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council)

Printed by  
IIUM PRINTING SDN BHD  
No. 1, Jalan Industri Batu Caves 1/3  
Taman Perindustrian Batu Caves  
Batu Caves Centre Point  
68100 Batu Caves  
Selangor Darul Ehsan  
Tel: +603-6188 1542 / 44 / 45 Fax: +603-6188 1543  
EMAIL: iiumprinting@yahoo.com

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# Chapter 1

## Sago, its Properties and Applications: A Review

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**Keywords:** Sago palm, sago starch, fermentation, biotechnology, biomedical, gelatinization, retrogradation, swelling

**Preview.** Even though there are deep concerns over the probable global food shortage in future years, scientists throughout the world still have the interest to explore the potential of less utilized crops to be used in high end environmentally friendly products. In this regard, mostly in Asia, sago palm is gaining much attention due to being an extremely sustainable plant with an ability to thrive in most soil conditions. The application of sago is not merely for food industries but scientifically innovated into biomedical and biotechnology production. Since sago is such a great importance to over a million populations, therefore this review focuses on the characteristic of sago palm and sago starch, their availability and the properties of the sago-starch as well as the invention of products from this versatile plant.

### Introduction

**Sago palm.** Sago palm (*Metroxylon sagu*) is among the oldest tropical plants utilized by man for its stem starch [1]. In Malaysia, sago palm is categorized under one of the potential less utilized food palm including maize and sugar palm tree. “Sago” which originally Javanese means starch containing palm pith [2] and the pith is located