PLANT FACT SHEET

Eugenia pitanga (O. Berg) Nied.

GENUS *Eugenia* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

COMMON NAMES Pitanga

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten fresh. They are also cooked and used for jellies.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It loses its leaves during the year. It develops underground stems or rhizomes. It grows 2 m tall. It forms dense thickets. The leaves are alternate. They can be papery or leathery and are shiny. They are 4-5 cm long. The flowers are white and occur singly or in groups of 2-5 in the axils of leaves. The flower stalks are 1-3 cm long. The fruit are round berries with ridges. They have a thick pulp.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. It grows naturally in savannas and grasslands in Brazil. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 1,100 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

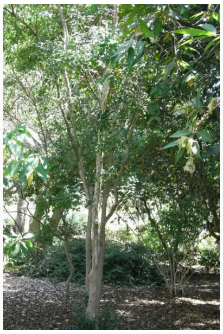
NOTES

There are about 550 Eugenia species. They are mostly in tropical and subtropical South America.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Andrare, G. M. M., et al, 2023, Plantas Alimenticias Nao Convencionais (PANC) Nos Levantamentos Etnobotanicos do Brazil. Novos Cadernos NAEA v. 25 No. 2 p 216

Bortolotto, I. M., et al, 2018, Lista preliminar das plantas alimenticias nativas de Mato Grosso do Sul, Brasil. Iheringia, Serie Botanica, Porto Alegre, 73 (supl.):101-116 (As Stenocalyx pitanga O. Berg)

Brack, P., et al, 2020, Frutas nativas do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil: riqueza e potencial alimentício.
Native fruits of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil: richness and potential as food. Rodriguésia 71: e03102018.

Coronel, R.E., 1982, Fruit Collections in the Philippines. IBPGR Newsletter p 9

Enum. Myrt. Bras. 155. 1893

Fouqué, A., 1972, Espèces fruitières d'Amérique tropicale. Institut français de recherches fruitierès outre-mer

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 300

Kermath, B. M., et al, 2014, Food Plants in the Americas: A survey of the domesticated, cultivated and wild plants used for Human food in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. On line draft. p 357

Lorenzi, H., Bacher, L., Lacerda, M. & Sartori, S., 2006, Brazilian Fruits & Cultivated Exotics. Sao Paulo, Instituto Plantarum de Estuados da Flora Ltda. p 209

www.colecionandofrutas.org

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/48a8e6b3-633f-4cc7-81cc-38c28c7f843f