PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Copaifera baumiana* Harms

**GENUS** *Copaifera* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Seeds

## DESCRIPTION

A small shrub. It can grow 3 m tall. It has woody rootstock. The small branches are brown. There are fine cracks along them. The leaves have leaflets along the stalks and one at the end. There are 4-5 pairs of leaflets and they are 3-5 cm long by about 1 cm wide. They are often unequal and rounded at the tip and with a wedge shaped base. The flowers are in the axils of the leaves and at the ends of the branches. The flowers are tightly packed and 5-7 mm long. The fruit is a pod with one seed. It is 2.5-3 cm across. It is almost round but flattened. The seed is 15 mm long by 12 mm wide.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows on Kalahari sands and in grassland and woodland. It grows between 750-1,400 m altitude.

## NOTES

There are 35-40 Copaifera species. They are tropical trees. Several Copaifera have the aril or layer around the seed edible. van Roosmalen, M.G.M., 1985, Fruits of the Guianan Flora. Utrecht Univ. & Wageningen Univ. p 181. Also as Caesalpinaceae.

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