PLANT FACT SHEET

Catostemma fragrans Benth.

GENUS *Catostemma* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Sand baromalli

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Fruit

The aril or layer around the seed is eaten fresh.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 15-30 m tall. The trunk can be 50 cm across. The twigs are covered with hairs. The leaves are alternate and clustered at the ends of small branches. The leaf blades are leathery and narrowly oval. They are 7-23 cm long by 3-8 cm wide. They can have some hairs underneath. The seedlings have simple leaves. The flowering shoots are in clusters in the axils of leaves. The flowers have a sweet scent. The flowers are tube shaped and the petals are white. The fruit is a woody capsule that is dull orange or rusty brown. It is oval and 4-10 cm long by 2-6 cm wide. It is densely velvet with ribs along it. There is one seed. This is orange and 5-7 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. The seed wall is fleshy and edible.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in forest often on white sand.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It flowers are fruit almost all year round in Guyana.

NOTES

In the subfamily Bombacoideae.

REFERENCES

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/4fab7e07-33a6-4d97-b0ae-0b5575b85519