PLANT FACT SHEET

Bellucia imperialis Saldanha & Cogn.

GENUS *Bellucia* **FAMILY** Melastomataceae

COMMON NAMES Goiaba-de-anta-vermelha

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten fresh. They are mostly used for juice.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows 8-14 m tall. The leaves are papery and lighter green underneath. They are 12-25 cm long and rounded. The flowers grow on the stem. The fruit are round and yellow. The skin is thin and the pulp is dense. The seeds are very small.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in dryland vegetation in the Amazon in Brazil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seeds are collected from ripe fruit. The fruit are placed in plastic bags to partly decompose the fruit to allow easy removal of seeds. The seeds are small and are washed using a fine sieve. The fine seeds are planted fresh by scattering over the ground. Seedlings emerge in 10-20 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The tree grows rapidly.

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