PLANT FACT SHEET

Couepia subcordata Benth. ex Hook.f.

GENUS *Couepia* **FAMILY** Chrysobalanaceae

COMMON NAMES Umarirana

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

Fruit are occasionally eaten fresh.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows 10-20 m tall. The crown has lots of leaves. The leaves are papery and smooth on the upper surface but brownish white with fine hairs underneath. The leaves are 12-17 cm long. The leaf stalks are hairy and 6-7 mm long. The flowers are in groups in the axils of leaves and at the ends of branches. The flowers are a dull white colour. The fruit is oval and fleshy. The skin is smooth and the pulp is fleshy.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows naturally in the dryland forests in the central Amazon in Brazil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The seeds are collected from ripe fruit and the fruit are stored in plastic bags to make it easier to remove the pulp. The seeds are washed under running water and planted fresh. Seeds emerge in 15-55 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees grow quickly.

NOTES

There are 71 Couepia species. They are all in tropical America. The fruit are rich in carotenoids.

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

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