PLANT FACT SHEET

Gustavia speciosa DC.

GENUS *Gustavia* **FAMILY** Lecythidaceae

COMMON NAMES Chupa, Chopeira, Chupo

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Nuts

CAUTION: The fruit affects the colour of the skin.
The flesh of the fruit is eaten raw or cooked with meat and rice.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 10-20 m tall. The crown is dense and oval. The trunk is 30-40 cm across. The leaves are narrowly oval. They are 2-44 cm long by 6-10 cm wide. The flowers usually have 4 rounded lobes. The fruit are round and 4-6 cm across. They are yellow. They contain 1-4 seeds in a fleshy yellow pulp.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows on the flood plain in humid forest in Brazil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. They are collected from ripe fruit. The fruit are often allowed to rot in a heap of put in a plastic bag to make it easy to remove the flesh off the seeds. The seeds are washed then planted fresh. They are best put in light shade. Seedlings emerge in 20-35 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow at a moderate rate.

NOTES

There are 40 Gustavia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/a709dde9-6cdf-4aaf-bcc5-1fa491bb8a82