PLANT FACT SHEET

Brosimum gaudichaudii Trecul

GENUS *Brosimum* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Sweet cotton

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: fruit, Root - spice, Sap

The juice is sucked out of the fruit and chewed like gum.

DESCRIPTION

A small to medium sized tree. The trunk is crooked. It grows 4-8 m tall. The trunk is 20-40 cm across. The leaves are alternate. They are oval and 8-10 cm long by 4-6 cm wide. The veins are easy to see. The male and female flowers are separate. There are several male flowers in a group and female flowers occur singly. The fruit are small. They tend to form on branches, side by side. They become shrunken and orange when ripe. There is one seed. The juice is chewed.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in savannah and scrub forest in Brazil. In Bolivia it grows up to 500 m altitude and in areas with rainfall of 1,000-1,500 mm per year.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The ripe fruit are put in a plastic bag to allow them to soften then the seeds removed. Fresh seed are planted and they germinate in 30-40 days. Plants can be grown from root cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow slowly.

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

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