PLANT FACT SHEET

Couma macrocarpa Barb. Rodr.

GENUS *Couma* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES Sorva grande, Milk tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Latex, Seeds

The pulp of the fruit is edible.
The latex is drinkable. It is also used for chewing gum.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. It grows to 30-40 m high. The leaves are oval and 8-12 cm long by 6-8 cm wide. The leaves are in groups of three. The flowers are 2.5 cm long. They are small and in heads at the ends of branches. The fruit are 8-9 cm across. The pulp is sweet with several seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in lowland forest on non flooded sites up to 1,000 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The seeds are removed from mature fruit and the pulp is washed off. The seeds need to be planted fresh. They emerge in 25-35 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Guyana plants flower in September and fruit in December.

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

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