PLANT FACT SHEET

Acanthosyris paulo-alvinii G. M. Barroso

GENUS *Acanthosyris* **FAMILY** Santalaceae

COMMON NAMES Mata-cacau

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 12-15 m high. It is partly parasitic on other plants. It has some spines. The trunk is erect and cylinder shaped. It is 20-35 cm across. The bark is light grey and rough. The leaves are oblong and taper to the tip and have a round base. They are papery and 10-20 cm long by 5-8 cm wide. The flowers are in the axils of leaves. The fruit is round and fleshy with a stone inside. The pulp is sweet and edible.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in forests near the Atlantic in Brazil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. The seeds are collected from ripe fruit and are partly decomposed in a plastic bag then the seeds removed under running water. Seeds need to be planted fresh. The seedlings germinate in 40-60 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow rapidly.

REFERENCES

Lorenzi, H., 2009, Brazilian Trees. A Guide to the Identification and Cultivation of Brazilian Native Trees. Instituto Plantarum de Estuados da Flora Ltda. Vol. 3 p 314

Nee, M., 1996, A New Species of Acanthosyris (Santalaceae) from Bolivia and a Key to the Woody South American Santalaceae. Brittonia, Vol. 48, No. 4, pp. 574-579

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