PLANT FACT SHEET

Sicana odorifera (Vell.) Naudin

GENUS *Sicana* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

COMMON NAMES Cassabanana

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Vegetable

The fruit are eaten unripe and cooked as a vegetable. They are sliced thinly and eaten raw. They can also be made into jams, preserves and alcoholic drinks. Caution: Alcohol is a cause of cancer.

DESCRIPTION

A pumpkin family plant. It is a vine. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 15 m long. The vine is hairy. The leaves are large and round with lobes. They are 25-30 cm across. The flowers occur singly. They are separately male and female. They occur in the axils of leaves. The fruit is 30-35 cm long and 12-16 cm wide. There are many seeds. There can be 800-850 per fruit.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows naturally in southern Brazil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants can be stored for several months in dry, shady places.

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www.colecionandofrutas.org (Also as Sicana atropurpurea)

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