PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Catostemma commune* Sandwith

**GENUS** *Catostemma* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Swamp baromalli

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Seeds

## DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 30-45 m tall. The trunk is 50-70 cm across. The leaves are alternate and clustered at the ends of the small branches. The leaf stalk is 1-9 cm long. It is thickened at both ends. They blades are stiff and papery. They are narrowly oval and 4-19 cm long by 2-9 cm wide. The seedlings have leaflets arranged like fingers on a hand. The flowering shoots are in clusters in the axils of leaves. The flowers have a sweet scent. They are tube shaped and 1 cm long. The petals are white. The fruit is a woody capsule 7-10 cm long by 3-5 cm wide. It is rusty brown. They are densely velvet and have one seed. This is orange and 5-8 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. The seed wall is fleshy and edible.

## HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in mixed forest in river basins.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants grown from seeds. Seedlings when damaged can re-sprout.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

In Guyana it flowers February to May and fruits October to May.

## NOTES

Also put in the family Bombacaceae. In the subfamily Bombacoideae.

## REFERENCES


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Polak, A. M., 1992, Major Timber Trees of Guyana. A Field Guide. Tropenbos Series 2. Wageningen. p 65

www.proyanomami.org

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**ONLINE FACT SHEET** https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/e7932756-ed65-41c1-b41d-bb159f83a65e