PLANT FACT SHEET

Xylopia frutescens Aubl.

GENUS *Xylopia* **FAMILY** Annonaceae

COMMON NAMES Malagueto chico

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds - spice, Fruit - spice

The fruit are used as a substitute for pepper.
The seeds are ground and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 4-8 m high. The branches grow horizontal. The trunk is 20-30 cm across. The bark is almost smooth and is smooth and has a smell. The leaves are simple and alternate. They have short leaf stalks. The leaves are narrow and pointed and are 5-12 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. The flowers are in small groups in the axils of leaves. The fruit is a round red berry. There are 2-6 seeds inside.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in Brazil in the drier regions of the Amazon. It grows along roadsides in Panama. In Colombia it grows between 70-1,000 m above sea level. It is often in seasonally flooded areas.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Ripe fruit are harvested and dried in the sun to remove the seeds. Fresh seed should be planted. Seeds germinate in 2-3 months.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow quickly.

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