COMMELINACEAE

Commelina diffusa Burm. fil. (Commelina cayennensis Rich.)
USES: Whole plant: Juice used in a decoction against warts; in an infusion against hair loss, fever and biliousness. Juice is drunk for high blood pressure. Plant is boiled, and the water drunk as a charm for hunting the savanna deer, by the Guyana Patamona. In NW Guyana, used to treat biliousness, loss of hair, kidney disease, and to cleanse womb and tubes. Ref: 190,195, 237,245.

Commelina erecta L.
NAMES: FG Creole: radie crapaud, zogra.
USES: Whole plant: Emollient, vulnerary; treatment of wounds; decoction as an external wash for mycoses; macerated in rum and rubbed on spider bites.
NOTES: The Ketchwa people of Ecuador ingest the sap as an oral contraceptive (10).
Ref: 2.

Dichorisandra hexandra (Aublet) Standley
USES: Whole plant: The Surinam Tirio use a decoction of the crushed plant as a wash for stomachache, and to wash the genitalia of persons with gonorrhoea. Leaf: Decoction as a wash to treat coughs. Leaves are boiled and the water drunk as an anti-asthmatic, by the Guyana Patamona. Ref: 8, 237.

Tradescantia zebrina Hort. ex Bosse (Zebrina pendula Schnizlein)
NAME: Guyana: purple zeb grass.
USES: Leaf: In Guyana, leaves are used in a tea for cleansing the blood and treating influenza. Ref: 234.

Tradescantia sp.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: or-rai-yik.
USES: Leaf and Stem: Leaves and stems are boiled, and the water drunk as a treatment for colds, by the Guyana Patamona. Ref: 237.

Tripogandra serrulata (Vahl) Handlos (Tradescantia elongata Meyer)
USES: Whole plant: Infusion of "red" and "white" plants is used for kidney disorders; "red" plant is boiled with *Scoparia dulcis* and *Momordica charantia* and the liquid is drunk as a purgative; decocted with leaves of *Persea americana* for biliousness. Diuretic; refreshant. Macerated plant is soaked in water overnight and drunk, to ensure success before embarking on a hunting expedition, especially when hunting savanna deer, by the Guyana Patamona. In NW Guyana, used to treat biliousness, loss of hair, kidney disease, and to cleanse womb and tubes. **Leaf:** Macerated leaves are applied to the face to encourage beard growth. Leaves are boiled and used as a tonic, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as a treatment for tuberculosis, by the Guyana Patamona.

Ref: 3,154, 237,245.

**CONNARACEAE**

*Connarus erianthus* Bentham ex Baker
NAME: FG Wayapi: tala.
USES: **Stem:** The French Guiana Wayapi grate the stem-bark and root-bark in a decoction to remedy copious menses.

Ref: 2.

*Connarus perrottetii* (DC.) Planchon
USES: **Whole plant:** Crushed in a decoction for malaria by the Surinam Tirio. **Stem:** The French Guiana Wayapi grate the stem-bark and root-bark, sometimes adding the leaves, in a decoction which is drunk to remedy copious menses.
CHEM: Stem-bark and leaves contain various polyphenols and quinones.

Ref: 2,8.

*Connarus punctatus* Planchon
NAME: FG Wayapi: tala.
USES: Same uses as given for *Connarus erianthus*.

Ref: 2.

*Rourea pubescens* (DC.) Radlk.
NAME: FG Wayapi: tala.
USES: Same uses as given for *Connarus erianthus*.

Ref: 2.

*Rourea surinamensis* Miquel
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USES: Leaf: Boiled and the decoction used as a wash for Surinam Tirio children who are sick "because their father killed a howler monkey".  
Ref: 8,192.

CONVOLVULACEAE

Dicranostyles sp.
USES: Stem: Cold water infusion of the bark is used as a wash for treating fevers by the Surinam Tirio. Decoction of rasped and boiled bark used by the Surinam Wayana as a wash to treat soreness in neck and back. Stem and Leaf: Bark is rasped and boiled with leaves by the Surinam Akuriyo for a decoction to treat diarrhoea and stomachache, and as a wash for skin sores. Seed: Eaten by the Surinam Akuriyo.
NOTES: Identification of this plant as a member of the genus *Dicranostyles* is provisional.  
Ref: 8.

*Ipomoea aquatica* Forsk. (*Ipomoea reptans* Poiret)
NAME: Surinam: dagoeblat.
USES: Root: Decoction used to remedy haemorrhoids. Leaf: Crushed leaves are applied to hardened pimples.  
Ref: 195.

*Ipomoea batatas* (L.) Poir.
USES: Leaf: Used to treat measles in NW Guyana.  
Ref: 245.

*Ipomoea pes-caprae* (L.) R. Brown
NAME: French: pied de chevre.
USES: Leaf: Infusion used as a diuretic.  
Ref: 4.

*Merremia dissecta* (Jacquin) H. Hallier
USES: Whole plant: Decoction as an effective external remedy for scabies and itch. 
CHEM: Leaf contains cyanogenetic heteroside.  
Ref: 2,206.
Merremia macrocalyx (Ruiz & Pavon) O'Donell (*Merremia glabra* Hall. fil.)


Uses: Whole plant: The Surinam Tirio boil the entire plant in a decoction used as a wash to treat fevers.

Ref: 8,206.

COSTACEAE

Costus arabicus L.


Uses: Rhizome: Decoction for leucorrhoea. Stem: Decoction for leucorrhoea. Infusion to treat blennorrhagia and gonorrhoea. Stems crushed, warmed, added to water and honey, and the resulting liquid used to remedy coughs, grippe and whooping cough. The French Guiana Palikur use macerated stems as a laxative, carminative and to treat colic. Stem used to treat sores, and both stem and shoot used to treat colds and coughs, in NW Guyana. Stem and Leaf: Juice from macerated leaves and stem is used as an antibacterial and as an anti-infective, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf: Juice from macerated leaves is warmed and used for treating ear infection, by the Guyana Patamona.

Ref: 2,149,158, 237,245.

Costus aff. arabicus L.


Uses: Root: Bitter-tasting, for a powerful tonic. Rhizome: Used to make a blennorrhagic tisane; depurative, diuretic. Leaf: Crushed in a decoction used by the Surinam Wayana as a wash for axe-cuts, and believed to accelerate the healing process.

Notes: The Tirio in Brazil use a decoction of the leaves as a genital wash (and sometimes a urethral wash) to treat gonorrhoea (56).

Ref: 8,154,168.

Costus claviger Benoist


Uses: Stem: Juice from the slightly warmed stem is applied in the ear as an analgesic, as an antibacterial, or as an anti-infective, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from the macerated stem is warmed and drunk to cure severe colds, by the Guyana Patamona. Inflorescence: The French Guiana Wayapi prepare the inflorescence in a decoction for treating urinogenital tract infections characterized by pus flow; part of the decoction is drunk and part used to wash the vagina or glans penis.

Ref: 2, 237.
Costus congestiflorus L.C. Rich. ex Gagnepain
USES: Stem: Decoction for leucorrhoea. Crushed stems in an infusion to treat blennorrhagia. Stems crushed, warmed, added to water and honey, and the resulting liquid used to remedy coughs, gripe and whooping cough. Inflorescence: French Guiana Wayapi make a decoction for urinogenital tract infections with pus flow; part of the decoction is drunk and part is used to wash the vagina or glans penis.
Ref: 2.

Costus curcumoides Maas
NAME: FG Wayapi: yapusi.
USES: Whole plant: The French Guiana Wayapi use the crushed plant in a maceration to treat infections of the penis and violent, persistent headache. Maceration of the whole plant is rubbed locally on the penis or the forehead (for headache), as well as drunk in small amounts to remedy penis infections.
Ref: 2.

Costus cylindricus Jacq.
NAMES: Surinam: sangrafoe, sangrafoe fik-fiko.
USES: Leaf: For a head cold with fever.
Ref: 193.

Costus erythrothyrsus Loes.
USES: Whole plant: Plant is chewed as a treatment for colds, by the Guyana Patamona. Root, Stem and Leaf: Boiled together and the water used as an antipyretic or for treating colds and coughs, by the Guyana Patamona. Stem: Peeled stem is eaten like sugar cane as a treatment for asthma, colds, and to clear the respiratory system, by the Guyana Patamona. Shoot used to treat coughs and colds in NW Guyana. Leaf: Leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as an antiasthmatic, as an antibacterial or as a treatment for coughing, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves are boiled and the water used as an anti-infective, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from macerated leaves is warmed and used for treating ear infection, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237,245.

Costus lasius Loes.
USES: Stem and Leaf: The French Guiana Wayapi warm the plant parts in a flame and press them onto flesh wounds as a haemostatic.
Ref: 2.
**Costus scaber** Ruiz & Pavon (*Costus spicatus* sensu auct., non Jacq.)


**USES:** **Whole plant:** Decoction for high blood pressure and bladder disorders; sap for syphilis; infusion of seedling for coughs. Used to treat malaria in NW Guyana. **Root:** Used to treat groin ruptures and hemorrhoids in NW Guyana. **Stem:** Boiled with *Hibiscus sabdariffa* and *Justicia pectoralis* in a decoction for whooping cough; sap used to treat colds. Decoction of twigs for remedying syphilis. Both stem and shoot used to treat coughs and colds in NW Guyana. **Leaf:** Used to treat coughs and colds, and also pneumonia in NW Guyana. **Flower:** Used for sore eyes, groin ruptures and hemorrhoids in NW Guyana.

Ref: 2,3,4,7,48,245.

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**Costus spiralis** (Jacq.) Roscoe var. *spiralis*

**NAMES:** FG Creole: canne congo. Surinam Djuka Bush Negro: singafu.

**USES:** **Whole plant:** Decoction is drunk to treat dysentery in French Guiana. **Stem and Leaf:** The Djuka use the plant for curing stomach ailments. **Stem:** Maceration is drunk by the French Guiana Palikur to remedy colic, and as a laxative and carminative. **Inflorescence:** Prepared in a decoction by the French Guiana Wayapi for treating urinogenital tract infections characterized by pus flow; part of the decoction is drunk and part used to wash the vagina or glans penis.

**NOTES:** Powdered leaves are used effectively as a styptic by the Kubeo Amerindians of Colombia (10).

Ref: 2,200.

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**Costus spiralis** (Jacq.) Roscoe var. *villosus* Maas

**NAMES:** FG Creole: canne congo. FG Palikur: tuiu.

**USES:** **Stem and Leaf:** The French Guiana Wayapi warm the plant parts in a flame and press them onto flesh wounds as a haemostatic.

Ref: 2.

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**Costus spp.**

**NAMES:** Surinam: wenteltrapplant. Surinam Sranan: sangafroe.

**USES:** **Stem and Leaf:** Made into a mealy compound which is used for a hairwash. **Stem:** Sap used against smallpox.

Ref: 195.

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**CRASSULACEAE**

**Kalanchoe pinnata** (Lam.) Pers. (*Bryophyllum pinnatum* (Lam.) Kurz)

USES: Whole plant: Infusion for a febrifuge. Leaf: Leaves and leaf-juice mixed with coconut oil and Carapa oil are rubbed on the head to treat violent and persistent headache. Leaf-juice (or flower) put into eyes to treat conjunctivitis. Warmed leaves applied to hernia. Leaf-juice drunk with salt for colds, coughs, grippe, loose bowels and teething babies; juice for sores, ulcers and swellings. Poultice of roasted leaves or juice from macerated leaves is used for treating ringworm, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated leaves are used as an antibacterial, as an antifungal, as an antiseptic, as an emollient, for treating diaper rash and for treating sores, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated leaves are warmed and used as an anti-oedemic, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves are macerated, soaked in water, and used as shampoo, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves used for sore eyes, coughs and colds, sores, and wounds and cuts in NW Guyana. CHEM: Plant contains fumaric acid, and saponins having cicatrizant properties (3). Ref: 2,3,16,193,195, 237,245.

CRYPTERONIACEAE

Alzatea verticillata Ruiz & Pavon
NAME: Guyana Patamona: co-mey-yar-ray-yik.
USES: Leaf: Macerated leaves are used as an antipruritic for itching, scaly scalp, shampoo, and for venereal disease, by the Guyana Patamona. NOTE: A species of Central and northwestern South America, not yet recorded in taxonomic literature from the Guianas. Ref: 237.

CUCURBITACEAE

Citrullus lanatus (Thunb.) Matsum. & Nakai (Citrullus vulgaris Schrad.; Cucurbita citrullus L.)
USES: Leaf and Seed: In French Guiana, an emulsion of seeds and crushed leaves makes an excellent cataplasm applied warm for intestinal inflammation. Fruit: Pulp is refreshing; juice used as a refreshing wash. Ref: 154,221.

Coccinia grandis (L.) Voigt (Coccinia cordifolia sensu auct., non (L.) Cogn.)
NAME: Guyana: pain-cure.
USES: Whole plant: Crushed and externally applied to affected areas to relieve pain of headache and rheumatism; decoction for chest colds. Ref: 3.
Cucumis anguria L.
USES: Fruit: In French Guiana, the juice is mixed with oil and applied on contusions.
NOTES: Plant introduced from tropical Africa to French Guiana.
Ref: 154,221.

Cucumis melo L.
USES: Leaf: Used for scrotal hernias in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

Cucumis sativus L.
USES: Fruit: Juice rubbed on skin to remedy skin diseases. Juice from grated fruit used to treat high blood pressure.
Ref: 193,195,221.

Cucurbita moschata (Duchesne) Poir.
USES: Leaf: Used to treat hemorrhages in NW Guyana. Flower: Infusion for jaundice. Fruit: Crushed pulp in cataplasm placed on forehead to remedy headache, on eyes for ophthalmia, and on all kinds of tumors. Seed: Emollient, laxative; seed oil used as a vanishing cream for reddish blotches.
Ref: 154,245.

Cucurbita pepo L. (Cucumis pepo (L.) Dum.)
USES: Fruit: Eaten to expel stomach worms; for liver ailments. Unripe fruit mixed with linseed oil and cooked into a paste used on abscesses. Seed: A well-known remedy for tapeworm in Surinam.
Ref: 193,195.

Cucurbita sp.
NAME: Guyana: pumpkin.
USES: Flower: Pumpkin flowers boiled in water, with a little salt added after boiling, are used as a remedy for thrush. For jaundice, an infusion is made and a few camomile flowers are added to the drink, after which a dose of castor oil is taken.
Ref: 190.

Cucurbita sp.
NAME: French: giromon.
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USES: Leaf: Infusion used to treat stomachache.  
Ref: 4.

**Fevillea cordifolia** L.  
USES: Seed: The French Guiana Wayapi employ the seeds in a hunting poison. Seeds are antirheumatic, used as an antidote to manchineel poisoning and manioc poisoning in French Guiana.  
Ref: 2,154.

**Gurania huberi** Cogn.  
USES: Stem: The pain of a French Guiana Wayapi child's internal hernia is relieved by using the hollowed-out stem to create a suction phenomenon and absorb the pain in conjunction with effects of the sap.  
Ref: 2.

**Gurania spinulosa** (Poeppig & Endl.) Cogn.  
USES: Stem: Pieces of stem are used by the French Guiana Palikur in a decoction as a remedy to 'cleanse the bile'.  
NOTES: Along the Rio Loretoyacu in Peru, a tea made from the roots is used to treat faulty menstruation (10).  
Ref: 2.

**Gymnopetalum cochinchinense** Kurz (Momordica surculata Noronha)  
USES: Whole plant: Bitter juice for an effective cathartic.  
NOTES: Plant introduced from tropical Asia to French Guiana.  
Ref: 154.

**Lagenaria siceraria** (Molina) Standley (Lagenaria vulgaris Ser.)  
USES: Leaf: Among the French Guiana Palikur, leaves are mixed in water with bark of Caryocar microcarpum and leaves of Elephantopus scaber as a foot-bath remedy for the "puwuski" mycosis and the "wiuri" microfilaria worms. Crushed leaves placed on haemorrhoidal swellings. Fruit: Rind is used in a decoction with molasses which is drunk for problems of the uterus or womb in Surinam. Juice drunk for typhus. Pulp surrounding the seed is toxic. Juice is a violent purgative. Seed: For hydropsy and as a taenicide.
CHEM: Plant contains bitter cucurbitacine triterpenoids (57). Flower has the flavonol rutoside in the stigma and kaempferol in the pollen (58).
Ref: 2,154,195,221.

**Melothria pendula** L. (*Melothria fluminensis* Gardn.)

NAMES: Surinam: sneki komkomro, sneki-komkoro.
USES: **Stem**: Infusion of tendrils for a drink given to remedy acidity (sour stomach) in children. **Fruit**: A very drastic purgative.
Ref: 154,193,221.

**Momordica charantia** L. (*Momordica balsamina* sensu Descot., non L.)

USES: **Whole plant**: Plant is boiled, and the water used as a tonic and anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona. Plant is boiled and a pinch of table salt is added to the water, which is drunk to treat biliousness, by the Guyana Patamona. **Stem, Leaf and Fruit**: Decoction for diabetes, cancer, external ulcers and sores, bitter tonic. **Stem and Leaf**: Dried leaves and stems are boiled and the water drunk as an antidiabetic, as an anti-hypertensive or as a treatment for biliousness, by the Guyana Patamona. **Leaf**: In an antiseptic bath for children; infusion is febrifuge; juice in a vermifuge infusion, also drunk for malaria, other fevers and biliousness. Cooked as a children's anthelmintic, and for scabies or itch. Infusion for stomach cramps. In Guyana, leaves used in a tea for cleansing the blood. Leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-hypertensive, as an antidiabetic or to purify the blood, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves are boiled and the water used as an antidiuretic, by the Guyana Patamona. Used to treat malaria in NY Guyana. **Leaf and Flower**: Flowers and young leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as a medication for hepatitis, by the Guyana Patamona. **Fruit**: Antidiabetic. Mixed with almond oil for a vulnerary. Fruit is eaten by Chinese and East Indians in French Guiana.
CHEM: Contains antileukemic, estrogenic and hypoglycemic chemicals. Seed contains abortifacient proteins, as well as the glucosidic steroid charantine which has an insulin-like hypoglycemic activity (3,59,60), and the oncostatic drug momordin (3,61,62).
Ref: 2,3,12,154,168,173,195,221,234,237.

**Momordica cochinchinensis** (Lour.) Spreng.

NAMES: Surinam: boesi sopropo, busi sopropo, wilde sopropo.
USES: **Root**: Cooked and used to treat bones swollen by rheumatism. **Leaf**: Infusion for intestinal disturbances, pain after childbirth, stomach cramps and various swellings. **Fruit**: Sap used to heal wounds. **Seed**: In a drink to cure lumbar pain.
NOTES: Asian plant introduced to Suriname.
Ref: 193.
Sechium edule (Jacq.) Sw.
USES: Fruit: Infusion of shredded fruit is used to lower blood pressure.
Ref: 4,221.

Trichosanthes cucumerina L.
Ref: 154,221.

Trichosanthes punctata L. (Fevillea hederacea Poir.)
NAME: French Guiana: noix de serpent (seed).
USES: Seed: Purgative; antidote to manchineel poisoning and snakebite,
NOTES: Plant introduced from India to French Guiana.
Ref: 154.

CUSCUTACEAE

Cuscuta americana L.
USES: Whole plant: Used to treat ulcerated sores, and as a diuretic and antidysenteric. Infusion for urinary conditions.
Ref: 14,193,195.

CYATHEACEAE

Cyathea cyatheoides (Desv.) K.U. Kramer
USES: Stem: Used to treat strained backs in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

Cyathea procera (Willd.) Domin
USES: Whole plant: Plant is boiled, and the water drunk to treat tuberculosis and as an antiasthmatic, by the Guyana Patamona. Shoot: Young shoots are boiled with water and drunk as a medication for whooping cough, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**CYPERACEAE**

*Bulbostylis paradoxa* (Spreng.) Lindm.  
USES: Whole plant: Plant is boiled, and the water used as an antiseptic, by the Guyana Patamona. Plant is burnt and the ashes used as a treatment for snakebite (anti-venom) or as a treatment for burns, by the Guyana Patamona. Stolon: Stolon is boiled with water and drunk as an anti-menorrhagic at childbirth or given to babies to treat diarrheal infection, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

*Calyptrocarya glomerulata* (Brongn.) Urban  
USES: Root: Roots are stripped, grated, boiled and the water drunk as an anti-menorrhagic during the menstrual cycle, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

*Calyptrocarya poeppigiana* Kunth  
USES: Whole plant: Burned and the smoke inhaled as a treatment for fevers.  
Ref: 8.

*Cyperus articulatus* L.  
USES: Root: Used for stomachache in NW Guyana. Stem: The French Guiana Palikur rub the pounded stem on the nose to control snoring.  
NOTES: The Secoya of Ecuador grind the rhizome and mix it with water, for the control of psychologically induced fright, as well as for fevers and grippe (10).  
Ref: 2,245.

*Cyperus digitatus* Roxb.  
USES: Root: Used for sore syes in NY Guyana.  
Ref: 245.
Cyperus giganteus Vahl
NAME: Guyana: uri-bena.
USES: Rhizome: Grated in an infusion used to treat severe menstrual pains, especially during menstruation (by easing the menstrual flow).
Ref: 3.

Cyperus laxus Lam. (Cyperus diffusus Vahl; Cyperus elegans sensu auct., non L.)
NAMES: FG Creole: herbe-couteau, mange la terre.
USES: Root: The French Guiana Wayapi use the root alone, or mixed with leaves of Ocimum micranthum, in a decoction applied for a febrifuge. Leaf: Infusion in a collyrium (lotion) applied to the eyelids to treat blepharitis.
Ref: 2,154.

Cyperus ligularis L. (Mariscus ligularis (L.) Urban)
NAMES: Surinam: apengoe, apengu pengu.
USES: Part unspecified: Used by the Surinam Saramaccan Bush Negroes as an ingredient in a curative herbal bath. Stem: Used to treat sore eyes, earaches, and coughs and colds in NW Guyana.
Ref: 193,245.

Cyperus rotundus L.
NAMES: Surinam: adroe, adru.
USES: Whole plant: Infusion in water for upset stomach.
Ref: 193.

Cyperus spp.
NAME: Surinam: nengrekondre-adroe.
USES: Rhizome: Infusion used for many stomach problems. Grated and mixed with alcohol or brandy into an ointment used for muscular pain and painful joints.
Ref: 195.

Kyllinga odorata Vahl (Cyperus kyllinga Endl.)
NAMES: FG Wayapi: pilipilima, pilipili sili.
USES: Whole plant: The French Guiana Wayapi use a decoction in a perfumed bath to relieve fever.
Ref: 2.

Mariscus pedunculatus (R. Br.) Koyama (Remirea maritima Aublet)
USES: Root: In French Guiana an infusion is used as a diuretic and sudorific; used to treat frequent micturition and bladder disease in Guyana. Root is spicy-tasting.
Rhynchospora barbata (Vahl) Kunth
NAME: Guyana Patamona: sa-laa-yik.
USES: Whole plant: Ashes from the burnt plant are applied to the cut end of the umbilical cord to prevent infection, by the Guyana Patamona. Plant is boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-inflammatory or as an antimalarial, by the Guyana Patamona. Young plant is burnt with kha-ra-raik and ka-mo-qua, the ashes collected and applied to the cut end of the tongue as a charm for learning, especially language, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf: Leaf blade is used to cut the inside of the nose to release pressure as a cure for migraine headaches, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Rhynchospora cephalotes (L.) Vahl
NAME: Guyana Patamona: sa-laa-yik.
USES: Whole plant: Dry plant is burned and the ashes applied to the umbilical cord for rapid healing and as an anti-infective, by the Guyana Patamona. Used for pain and hair loss in NW Guyana.
Ref: 237,245.

Scleria cf. flagellum-nigrorum Bergius
USES: Leaf: Crushed in a decoction for fevers.
Ref: 8.

Scleria latifolia Swartz (Scleria arundinacea Kunth)
USES: Whole plant: Plant is burnt and the ashes used as an anti-infective, by the Guyana Patamona. Plant is boiled, the water allowed to cool, and then drunk as an antidiarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona. Root: Roots are stripped, grated, boiled and the water allowed to cool, then drunk before meals in the morning during the menstrual cycle to alleviate excessive blood flow, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf: Crushed and boiled in a decoction for fevers. Juice from macerated leaves is used for treating persistent sores, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf and Fruit: Leaves and fruits are burnt and the ashes used for treating cuts, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruit: Fruits are burnt and the ashes used as an antiseptic agent or as an ointment for treating burns, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 8, 237.

Torulinium odoratum (L.) Hooper (Cyperus odoratus L.)
NAME: Surinam Tirio: kum-we-muh.
USES: Root: Surinam Tirio children are given a body-rub with the roots, and then washed with an infusion made from the roots for soothing aches or fever. Root used for fevers and stomachaches, and for “evil spirits” in NW Guyana.  
Ref: 8,245.

**CYRILLACEAE**

*Cyrilla racemiflora* L.  
USES: **Whole plant:** Plant is boiled, and the water used as an anthelmintic, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**DENNSTAEDITIACEAE**

*Hypolepis* sp.  
NAME: Guyana Arawak and Creole: wild maran.  
USES: **Part unspecified:** Used for treating skin sores by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.  
Ref: 238.

*Pteridium aquilinum* L.  
NAME: Guyana Patamona: kam-bail-yik.  
USES: **Whole plant:** Plant is boiled, and the water used as an antiseptic, by the Guyana Patamona. Plant is boiled along with *Lantana camara* and *Scoparia dulcis* and the water used as an herbal bath for cold sweat, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from macerated young shoots is used as an anti-infective or for treating cuts and wounds or for treating sores, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**DICHAPETALACEAE**

*Dichapetalum pedunculatum* (DC.) Baillon  
NAME: Guyana Arawak: kanakudiballi.  
USES: **Whole plant:** Sap is used to treat sore eyes.  
Ref: 9,192.

*Tapura guianensis* Aubl.  
NAME: Guyana Arawak: karoshiri.  
USES: **Part unspecified:** Used as a fish poison, by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.
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Ref: 238.

**DILLENIACEAE**

**Curatella americana** L.
USES: Stem: Macerated bark is boiled, and the water drunk to prevent ulcers or to treat jaundice, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark is boiled with water and used for treating hepatitis, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark employed as a sedative in Surinam. Leaf: Infusion of the leaves is used as an astringent in French Guiana.
Ref: 4, 154, 192, 237.

**Davilla kunthii** A. St. Hil.
USES: Whole plant: Plant is boiled, and the water drunk as a treatment for back pain or as a tonic, by the Guyana patamona. Plant is boiled and the water used as an antiseptic, by the Guyana Patamona. Stem: In NW Guyana, sap used as abortive; wood used as aphrodisiac; and bark used to disinfect the umbilical cord of newborn babies. Leaf and Stem: Leaves and stems are boiled with water and used as a beverage, for impotence or as a treatment for back pain, by the Guyana Patamona. Wood and Leaf: Wood and leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as an analgesic for back pain, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237, 245.

**Davilla cf. rugosa** Poiret
USES: Whole plant: Sap is used as a wash for treating fevers, especially feverish children of the Surinam Tirio.
CHEM: Plant contains the alkaloid caffeine (33).
Ref: 8, 192.

**Davilla spp.**
USES: Stem: The French Guiana Palikur drink the juice to remedy whooping cough.
CHEM: Plants contain the flavonoids rhamnetine and isorhamnetine.
Ref: 2.
Doliocarpus dentatus (Aublet) Standley
 USES: Whole plant: Decoction for venereal disease. Mixed, for a tonic, with Philodendron fragrantissimum, Strychnos sp., Smilax schomburgkiana, Clusia grandiflora and Bauhinia scala-simiae. Stem: Stem and bark in an aphrodisiac tea, or in an infusion when chopped and soaked in wine; sap of stem drunk to relieve stricture or as a thirst quencher. Sap used as an abortive, for coughs and colds, and to treat snakebites in NW Guyana. Leaf: Used to disinfect the umbilical cord of newborn babies in NW Guyana. Part unspecified: Depurative.
 Ref: 3,8,149,168,192,245.

Doliocarpus cf. macrocarpus Mart. ex Eichl.
 NAME: Guyana Patamona: kata-whaik-yik.
 USES: Wood: Concentrated mixture of the wood boiled with water is used as an aphrodisiac, by the Guyana Patamona. Dry wood boiled with water is used as a tea, a tonic or for impotence, by the Guyana Patamona.
 Ref: 237.

Doliocarpus cf. major Gmelin
 NAME: Guyana: cappa-dula.
 USES: Stem: Infusion in hot water for a tea to remedy diarrhoea.
 Ref: 234.

Doliocarpus spraguei Cheesem.
 USES: Wood: Dry wood is boiled. And the water used as an aphrodisiac, by the Guyana Patamona. Dry wood is boiled, and the water drunk as a beverage, as a tonic, as a treatment for back pain or for impotence, by the Guyana Patamona.
 Ref: 237.

Doliocarpus spp.
 USES: Stem: The French Guiana Palikur drink the juice to remedy whooping cough.
 CHEM: Various Doliocarpus species contain myricetin, quercetin, kaempferol, leucoanthocyanins and the flavonoids rhamnetine and isorhamnetine (3).
 Ref: 2.

Pinzona coriacea Martius & Zucc. (Pinzona calineoides Eich.)
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

USES: Whole plant: Used to treat diabetes in NW Guyana. Wood: Wood is boiled and the water drunk as a treatment for back pain, by the Guyana Patamona. Wood is dried, cut into small pieces, boiled, and the water used as a tonic, by the Guyana Patamona. Wood and Bark: Wood and bark are boiled and the water drunk as a treatment for impotence, by the Guyana Patamona. Stem: Cut stem yields a refreshing, mildly diuretic liquid. Wood used as aphrodisiac in NW Guyana. Leaf: Used for treating “desinf.” navel in NW Guyana.
Ref: 154,237,245.

Tetracera asperula Miquel
NAMES: Guyana Arawak: kabaduli, kabuduli.
USES: Stem: Decoction of the bark is used as an antisyphilitic; stimulating tea is made from bark. Leaf: Used to disinfect the umbilical cord of newborn babies in NW Guyana.
CHEM: Leaves of Tetracera species contain kaempferol 5-methyl ether, rhamnatin, isorhamnatin, rhamnocitin and azaleatin (63).
Ref: 3,9,192,245.

Tetracera costata Martius ex Eichler subsp. rotundifolia (J.E. Smith) Kubitzki (Tetracera ovalifolia DC.)
USES: Stem: Decoction of wood is used as an antisyphilitic and sudorific in French Guiana. Seed: Seeds in an infusion with white wine for control of intermittent fevers, scurvy and chlorosis.
Ref: 154.

Tetracera tigarea DC. (Tetracera aspera (Aublet) Willd.; Tigarea aspera Aublet)
NAME: French Guiana: liane rouge.
USES: Stem: Sap used as abortive; bark used to disinfect the umbilical cord of newborn babies; and wood used as an aphrodisiac in NW Guyana. Leaf: A decoction is drunk as an antisyphilitic in Guyana. Part unspecified: Depurative. Used for treating “desinf.” navel in NY Guyana.
Ref: 7,154,168,245.

Tetracera volubilis L.
USES: Stem: In NW Guyana, wood used as aphrodisiac; sap used in treatment of diabetes, for snakebites, and for sore eyes.
Ref: 245.

Dioscorea alata L.
NAMES: Guyana: white yam, yam.
USES:  **Tuber:** Grated, mixed with brown stout vinegar, spread onto paper and placed on the small of a woman's back to prevent or forestall a threatened abortion (unwanted miscarriage).
Ref:  190.

**Dioscorea trichanthera** Gleason
USES:  **Root:** Used as aphrodisiac in NW Guyana.
Ref:  245.

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**DIPSACACEAE**

**Scabiosa columbaria** L.
NAME:  French Guiana: verveine caraibe.
USES:  **Whole plant:** Infusion is used to treat dysmenorrhoea in French Guiana.
Ref:  4.

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**DROSERACEAE**

**Drosera capillaris** Poiret (**Drosera pusilla** sensu auct. Guian., non H.B.K.)
USES:  **Whole plant:** Surinam Amerindians drop the squeezed juice from numerous fire-warmed and withered plants into bleary eyes to clear them. Infusion in water is used to treat hoarseness.
Ref:  157,193,195.

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**DRYOPTERIDACEAE**

**Cyclodium meniscioides** (Willd.) K. Presl var. **meniscioides**
USES:  **Root:** Used for abcesses and whooping cough in NW Guyana.
Ref:  245.

**Polybotrya caudata** Kunze
NAMES:  Surinam Tirio: teh-pwe-hi-po. Surinam Wayana: ho-ku-twe-mah. USES:  **Root:** Used to treat abcesses in NW Guyana.  **Leaf:** Decoction used as a wash for stomachache and fevers by the Surinam Tirio of Tepoe.
Ref:  8,245.
EBENACEAE

**Diospyros discolor** Willd.
NAMES: Guyana: butterfruit, peach.
USES: Leaf: Decoction of young leaves for hypertension, heart ailments and diabetes. Leaves heated and squeezed with leaves of *Plectranthus amboinicus* for a preparation to treat chest colds. Ref: 3.

**Diospyros guianensis** (Aublet) Guerke (*Paralea guianensis* Aublet)
USES: Stem: The French Guiana Galibi use a bark decoction as a wash for fevers. Leaf: Leaves are crushed in a little oil and the juice is applied to certain eczematous dermatoses. Part unspecified: Used as a febrifuge by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.
CHEM: Stem-bark contains a naphthaquinone which alleviates certain dermal lesions, and the terpenes lupeol, betulinol and betulinic acid (64,65).
Ref: 2,8,48,149,154,192, 238.

**Diospyros martinii** Benoist
USES: Stem and Leaf: Leaves and bark are crushed in a decoction for treating spider bite among the Surinam Tirio and Wayana. Crushed leaves and rasped bark are drunk in a cold water infusion by the Surinam Akuriyo to remedy diarrhoea and stomachache. Seed: Pulp of seed is sucked by the French Guiana Coussari.
Ref: 8.

ELAEOCARPACEAE

**Sloanea dentata** L.
USES: Fruit: In French Guiana, the fruit is steeped in vinegar and applied as a decongestant for a blocked chest.
Ref: 154,198.

**Sloanea cf. guianensis** (Aubl.) Benth.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: kin-out-tiuy-yik.
USES: **Fruit:** Spines on the fruit are considered poisonous, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**Sloanea** sp.  
**NAME:** FG Wayapi: wilakayulu.  
**USES:** **Stem and Leaf:** Bark and leaves are drunk in a decoction having a strong almond flavor as a febrifuge.  
**NOTES:** Twenty-five species of *Sloanea* occur in the Guianas.  
Ref: 2.

**ERIOCAULACEAE**

**Tonina fluviatilis** Aublet (*Eriocaulon amplexicaule* Rottb.)  
**NAME:** FG Palikur: iiglarib.  
**USES:** **Whole plant:** Ground and mixed with bark of *Dipteryx* sp. in a liquid bath to strengthen nursing infants.  
Ref: 2.

**ERYTHROXYLACEAE**

**Erythroxylon coca** Lam.  
**NAMES:** French Guiana and Guyana: coca. Guyana Creole: cocaine, cocaine tree.  
**USES:** **Whole plant:** In beverages and proprietary medicines. **Leaf:** Decoction or infusion for tonic and stimulant; powdered, dried leaves used as a stimulant and hallucinogenic drug, which is sometimes chewed with lime and the ashes of *Cecropia peltata*.  
**CHEM:** Leaf contains the alkaloid cocaine, used clinically as a local anaesthetic (141,166).  
Ref: 3,4,45,163,173,192.

**EUPHORBIACEAE**

**Acalypha macrostachya** Jacq.  
**NAMES:** Surinam: bruin-blad. Surinam Sranan: toefesi-wiwiri.  
**USES:** **Leaf:** Warmed and applied to patients with filariasis to chill the painful areas.  
Ref: 14,195.
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**Aleurites moluccana** (L.) Willd. (*Aleurites triloba* Forst.)
NAME: French Guiana: bancoulier.
USES: **Seed**: Seed-oil is slightly purgative and also a drying substance (siccative).
NOTES: Plant introduced from Asia to Cayenne, French Guiana.
Ref: 154.

**Amanoa cf. guianensis** Aubl.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: wac-sang-yik.
USES: **Whole plant**: Plant is a skin irritant (Guyana Patamona).
Ref: 234.

**Caperonia paludosa** Klotzsch (*Caperonia castaneifolia* (L.) A. St. Hil.)
NAME: Guyana: wild green tea.
USES: **Whole plant**: Boiled as a tea for a blood purifier and to treat dysentery in Guyana.
Ref: 234.

**Caperonia palustris** (L.) A. St. Hil.
USES: **Stem and Leaf**: Decoction is used to flush the bladder and for kidney disorders; back pains; made into a tea for general purposes.
Ref: 3,195.

**Chaetocarpus schomburgkianus** (Kuntze) Pax & K. Hoffm.
USES: **Stem**: Bark used for evil spirits.
Ref: 245.

**Chamaesyce hirta** (L.) Millsp. (*Euphorbia capitata* Lam.; *Euphorbia hirta* L.; *Euphorbia pilulifera* L.)
USES: **Whole plant**: Anti-inflammatory as applied to insect bites and snakebite; infusion is cholagogue, febrifuge and used to remedy intestinal affictions, colds and flatulence; warmed and mixed with ghee in a poultice applied to treat filaria and rheumatism. Alexipharmic. Made into a cooling drink for infants. **Leaf**: Infusion used as a cholagogue and to treat diarrhoea in French Guiana. Crushed, smoked in a cigarette to relieve asthma. Bruised or chopped leaves employed in a restorative cataplasm to treat adenitis and abscesses. Used in refreshing tisanes.
CHEM: Contains shickimic acid, which is an antispasmodic principle, as well as taxerol, friedeline, beta sitosterol, and ellagic acid (67,68).
NOTES: This plant is used in European medicine for cardiac asthma.
Ref: 2,3,4,154,190,195,213.
Chamaesyce hypericifolia (L.) Millsp. (Euphorbia hypericifolia L.)
USES: Whole plant: Used to treat syphilitic blennorrhoea. In a cataplasm for cephalalgia. Seed: Drastic purgative.
Ref: 7,213.

Chamaesyce prostrata (Aiton) Small (Euphorbia prostrata Aiton)
NAMES: FG Creole: madlome, madlome rouge.
USES: Whole plant: In a decoction drunk with lemon or honey as a cough remedy by the French Guiana Palikur. Stem and Leaf: A bitter diuretic; juice is drunk by women experiencing a loss of blood; fresh plant in a plaster for healing sprains and strains.
Ref: 2.

Chamaesyce thymifolia (L.) Millsp. (Euphorbia thymifolia L.)
USES: Whole plant: Infusion for stomach pain. Decoction for diarrhoea and to remedy white discharges. Stem and Leaf: A bitter diuretic; juice is drunk by women having a loss of blood; fresh plant in a plaster for healing sprains and strains. Stem: Yields milky sap used on warts. Leaf: In a decoction for cystitis and kidney ailments.
CHEM: Contains the flavone pigment cosmosine; root contains myricyclic alcohol, taraxerol and tirucallol.
Ref: 2,195,213.

Chamaesyce sp.
NAME: Guyana: dove weed.
USES: Whole plant: Mixed with roots of a Musa cultivar known in Guyana as "red buck banana", and brewed into a tea to which rice bran is added, then strained and ingested to treat female hemorrhaging.
Ref: 234.

Cnidoscolus urens (L.) J.C. Arthur (Jatropha urens L.)
USES: Leaf: Decoction is drunk by Surinam Amerindian women shortly before childbirth to ease delivery. Infusion drunk for coughs.
Ref: 195.

Croton hostmannii Miq.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: pe-lik-pi-yik.
USES: Bark: Bark is boiled and the water drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona.
Croton pullei Lanjouw
NAME: Surinam Tirio: kah-tam-we-muh.
USES: Whole plant: Sap as a liniment for treating children's fevers. Stem and Leaf: Bark and leaves are briefly placed in fire and then rubbed on leg sores for a very effective treatment by the Surinam Tirio. Stem: Decoction used as a wash to treat headache.
Ref: 8.

Croton trinitatis Millsp.
NAMES: Guyana: rock-balsam, wild black pepper, wild massala.
USES: Whole plant: Boiled as a tea for treating colds, fever, abdominal pain, and for an abortifacient. Leaf: In a tea for cleansing the blood.
CHEM: Plant shows antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal activity (66).
Ref: 3,234.

Croton sp.
USES: Root: Roots are washed and boiled, the water is allowed to cool, and then drunk as an antimalarial, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Drypetes variabilis Uittien
USES: Stem: Inner bark is rasped into water and boiled for a wash to treat fevers by the Surinam Tirio. Stem and Leaf: Decoction of leaves and rasped bark used as a rub for throat problems by the Surinam Akuriyo, who sometimes add honey and ingest the decoction if it does not perform effectively as a rub. Leaf: Juice from macerated leaves is used to remedy conjunctivitis, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves are boiled and the water used for washing the skin to lower the temperature in cases of high fever, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 8,192,237.

Euphorbia cotinifolia L. (Euphorbia cotinoides Miq.)
USES: Whole plant: Used to remedy sores in NW Guyana. Latex: Milky latex is strongly purgative. Used by the French Guiana Galibi as a fish poison. Exudate used to treat infected nails in NW Guyana. Latex in the roots is more poisonous than in other parts of the plant.
NOTE: Plants from NW Guyana have been referred to as Euphorbia cotinifolia var. kunapalu (245).
Ref: 154,195,245.
Euphorbia heterophylla L.
NAME: Surinam: merki wiwiri.
USES: **Stem and Leaf**: In a decoction for stomachache.
Ref: 193.

Euphorbia neriifolia L.
NAMES: Guyana: sahure, sweet-aloes.
USES: **Leaf**: Leaves are heated, squeezed, and the sap taken with salt to treat wheezing in babies, colds and stomach upset. Used for infected nails, fevers, coughs and colds, and for diabetes in NW Guyana.
CHEM: Contains terpenes, anthocyanins, alcohols and steroids (3).
Ref: 3,245.

Euphorbia punicea Sw.
NAME: French Guiana: euphorbe.
USES: **Latex**: Used to treat ringworm. Latex from four seeds is mixed with magnesia to treat syphilis, and as a purgative.
NOTES: Plant introduced from Jamaica to French Guiana.
Ref: 154.

Hevea guianensis Aublet
USES: **Whole plant**: Latex is applied to kill parasitic botfly larvae by the Surinam Tirio.
NOTES: The Waorani people of Ecuador use this rubber tree for treating infections from the bite of the tropical warble fly (10).
Ref: 8,213.

Hevea pauciflora (Spruce ex Benth.) Muell. Arg. var. coriacea Ducke
USES: **Whole plant**: Latex applied onto the skin by the Surinam Tirio to suffocate parasitic botfly larvae.
Ref: 8,192.

Hippomane mancinella L.
USES:  Fruit: Extract is employed by some French Guianese to treat elephantiasis. Antidotes to the poisonous latex in an accidentally eaten fruit include: a leaf infusion of *Jatropha multifida*; a leaf-and-flower infusion of *Tabebuia serratifolia*; and a seed decoction of *Fevillea cordifolia.*  
Ref. 154.

**Hura crepitans** L.  
USES:  Stem: Decoction of bark used as a purgative and emetic; sap in bark reputedly is a remedy for leprosy.  
Latex: Mixed in a paste with *Bixa orellana* seeds for an arrow poison in French Guiana.  
Leaf: Infusion as a body-rub for leprosy. Milky sap is caustic and irritant.  
Seed: Viscous oil is a very strong (drastic) purgative and emetic.  
CHEM:  Latex contains the toxic diterpene hura-toxin. The phytohaemagglutinin crepitin has been isolated. Seed contains a glucosamine lectin having mitogenic and haemagglutinating properties (3).  
NOTES:  The Tikuna of Colombia use the latex as a fish poison (10).  
Ref. 2,3,7,20,154,168,173,190,192,195.

**Hyeronima alchorneoides** Allemao (*Hieronima laxiflora* (Tul.) Muell. Arg.)  
USES:  Stem: In Guyana a decoction of the bark is used to relieve coughs.  
Ref. 9,192,213.

**Jatropha curcas** L. (*Curcas purgans* Medik.)  
USES:  Latex: Dental analgesic when swabbed a tooth-cavity by the French Guiana Palikur and Wayapi. In French Guiana, the latex is mixed with lard for a resolutive pomade.  
Leaf: Cataplasm for neuralgia, fever, wounds, headaches, swellings; foot-rub for sand fleas. Leaf used for abscesses, coughs and colds, heart problems, pain, sores and toothaches in NW Guyana.  
Leaf and Fruit: Decoction for abdominal disorders, rheumatism, ulcers and swellings.  
Seed: Parched with ginger in decoction for menstrual pain. Oil is emetic, purgative; grated in poultice for abscesses.  
CHEM:  Seed contains the toxalbumin curcine. Seeds have a depressant action on the central nervous system (69). Contains the irritant diterpenoid 12-deoxy-16-hydroxy-phorbol (3).  
Ref. 2,3,14,147,154,155,168,173,190,195,213,245.

**Jatropha gossypiifolia** L. (*Adenoropium gossypiifolium* (L.) Pohl)
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

USES: Leaf: Used for bruises, sores, swelling, headaches and heart problems in NW Guyana. Leaf and Seed: Oil is purgative, that of the leaves taken in a decoction. Leaf: Infusion and poultice for a soothing emulsion to remedy inflammations and sores; mixed with soft grease for cuts. Fruit and Seed: Boiled in liquid for stomachache.
CHEM: Jatropholone terpenes have antitumor properties. Gossypibetiline, tetrahydrogossypibetiline, gadain and the irritant diterpenoid 12-deoxy-16-hydroxy-phorbol have been isolated (3,70,173). Ref: 2,3,4,7,245.

**Jatropha multifida** L.
USES: Seed: Fresh seeds are purgative, emetic. Ripe, dry seeds contain a dangerous, bitter, purgative oil which, it is reported, can be counteracted by drinking a glass of white wine. Ref: 154.

**Joannesia princeps** Vell.
USES: Stem: Bark contains poisonous latex, employed as a diarrhoea remedy. Seed: Source of a purgative oil, and used for skin diseases. Ref: 154.

**Mabea piriri** Aublet
USES: Stem: Bark is bitter and astringent, used for a febrifuge in French Guiana. Exudate used for sore eyes in NW Guyana.
Ref: 154,213,245.

**Mabea pulcherrima** Muell. Arg.
NAME: FG Wayapi: yalikiluway.
USES: Flower: Nectar is sucked as a tonic by the French Guiana Wayapi. Ref: 2.

**Mabea speciosa** Muell. Arg. subsp. *speciosa* (*Mabea caudata* Pax & K. Hoffm.)
USES: Bark: Bark is boiled, and the water used as an antiseptic agent, by the Guyana Patamona. Latex: Latex is used as an ointment for sores, and applied on wounds for rapid healing, by the Guyana Patamona. Ref: 237.
Mabea taquari Aublet
USES: Stem: Bark is bitter and astringent, used for a febrifuge in French Guiana.
Ref: 154.

Manihot esculenta Crantz
USES: Root: Root-starch applied in a plaster soaked with Carapa oil onto shattered muscles. Root-starch mixed with rum and rubbed onto children for abscesses, skin eruptions; in ointment for the fungal dermatitis "tete" in Guyana; grated for cuts. Juice is mildly diuretic. Sugar cane and annatto are employed in an antidote to ingested water which has been poisoned by the soaking roots of this plant. Root: Used for abscesses, sores and “evil spirits” in NW Guyana. Leaf: Hemostatic plaster for skin wounds.
CHEM: Hydrocyanic acid is liberated upon hydrolysis of linamarine and lautostraline, two cyanogenetic heterosides in the starchy root (71). Compounds in plant exhibit antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal activity (3).
NOTES: Lanjouw (Ref: 213) lists 34 common names used in Surinam for this plant. Among the Djuka tribe of Surinam Bush Negroes studied by Counter and Evans (Ref: 200), improperly processed cassava bread consumed over a long period of time is believed to lead to a high incidence of high-frequency hearing loss. Cassava contains a cyanogenic glycoside called laminarin, which causes a neuropathy of the nervous system, especially the auditory nerve. Cassava is the main carbohydrate staple of many Bush people.
Ref: 2,3,154,173,193,195,245.

Maprounea guianensis Aublet
USES: Stem: Bark is used in a decoction to remedy venereal chancres, and pustules which form on the legs; bark and leaves in a decoction or drinkable maceration to relieve diarrhoea; bark grated and pressed onto navel of French Guiana Palikur infants to accelerate cicatrization of umbilicus. Leaf: Decoction for bathing patient with measles, and as a douche for mothers after childbirth. In Guyana, leaves cooked with salt are applied as a treatment for fungal diseases such as athlete's foot and ringworm, and for remedying eczema and skin rashes. Used for itches and sores in NW Guyana.
CHEM: Contains compounds which show antibacterial and antifungal properties (3).
Ref: 2,9,190,191,192,213,234,245.

Micandra glabra (R.E. Schultes) R.E. Schultes
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USES: Whole plant: Plant is considered poisonous by the Guyana Patamona. Latex: Latex causes severe itching if allowed to fall on or touch the skin (Guyana Patamona).
Ref: 237.

Omphalea diandra L.
USES: Stem: Sap applied to forehead to reduce headache. Fresh inner bark used to heal cuts and sores. Leaf: Warmed leaves used to treat wasp stings, and benign and infected ulcers. Seed: Seeds taste good, but eating any more than two of them will have a purgative effect; laxative.
Ref: 2,7,9,14,154,193,213.

Pedilanthus retusus Benth.
USES: Latex: White latex is used as an anti-pruritic and as a medication for sores, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf: Juice from macerated leaves is applied to cuts and bruises as an antiseptic, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated leaves are used as a poultice for abscesses, by the Guyana Patamona.
NOTE: A Brazilian species not yet recorded in taxonomic literature from the Guianas.
Ref: 237.

Pedilanthus tithymaloides (L.) Poit.
USES: Latex: White latex is antiseptic, and is applied on cuts and bruises for quick healing (Guyana Patamona). Stem: Exudate used to treat warts in NW Guyana.
Ref: 237,245.

Pera glabrata (Schott) Baill.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: wang-yink-yik.
USES: Bark: The bark is warmed and tied around sores as a poultice, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Phyllanthus acidus (L.) Skeels
NAMES: Surinam: gooseberry, ronde birambi.
USES: Leaf: In an infusion or tea for women who are dieting and wish to remain slim.
Ref: 195.

Phyllanthus acuminatus Vahl
USES: Leaf: Leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as an antipyretic, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.
**Phyllanthus amarus** Schum. & Thonn.


*Uses:* Whole plant: Decoction with honey as a cough medicine. Infusion for dysentery and as a blood purifier (bitter tonic) to reduce blood-sugar level. Stem and Leaf: Aerial parts in a bitter infusion for a febrifuge, diuretic, stomachic and cholagogue; quinine substitute. Used by mothers after childbirth for painful womb; colic. Part unspecified: In Saramaccan curative herbal bath.

*Chem:* Contains alkaloids, flavonoids and triterpenes. Plant shows antimicrobial, antibacterial, antifungal and antiviral activity (3,40).

*Notes:* Details of the numerous Surinam uses are given on pp. 45-48 in Ref:193. Ref: 2,40,193,195.

**Phyllanthus brasiliensis** (Aublet) Poir.


*Uses:* Whole plant: French Guiana Amerindians of the upper Maroni region bruise the whole plant, which exudes a latex used as a depurative. Stem: Crushed stem yields latex used for fish poison in French Guiana. Leaf: Made into a paste for a strong fish poison in Guyana, where the paste is first enclosed in the skin of a grasshopper. Used to treat munuri ant (*Paripona clavata*) bite in NW Guyana.

Ref: 154,168,190,245.

**Phyllanthus carolinensis** Walt. subsp. *carolinensis*

*Name:* FG Creole: graine en bas feuille.

*Uses:* Same uses as given for *Phyllanthus amarus*.

Ref: 2.


*Uses:* Whole plant: Used to treat syphilitic blennorrhoea in Guyana.

Ref: 7.

**Phyllanthus niruri** L. subsp. *niruri*


*Uses:* Leaf: Infusion for dysentery. Seed: Infusion for cholagogue, febrifuge and after childbirth. Additional uses of the plant are the same as those given for *Phyllanthus amarus*.

*Chem:* Contains the alkaloid norsecurinine, numerous lignans and leucodelphinidine alkaloids, and antihepatotoxic principles (72,73,74,143).

Ref: 2,4,154,213.
USES: Part unspecified: In a decoction for kidney disease and stomachache.
Ref: 195,213.

Phyllanthus stipulatus (Raf.) Webster
NAME: Surinam: manbita.
USES: Part unspecified: In a decoction for kidney disease and stomachache.
Ref: 195.

Phyllanthus subglomeratus Poiret
USES: Stem and Leaf: Aerial parts of the plant are used as a fish poison and to destroy termites.
CHEM: Contains active ichthyotoxic and insecticidal chemicals, such as the lignans justicididine and diphylline.
Ref: 2.

Phyllanthus urinaria L.
USES: Stem: Decoction of bark is used to treat frequent micturition and bladder diseases. Part unspecified: In Surinam, a decoction is employed against colic and stomachache by the mother of a newborn child. Infusion efficacious for kidney problems. Latex: Used by French Guiana Amerindians as a fish poison. Additional uses are the same as those given for Phyllanthus amarus.
CHEM: Whole plant exhibits antimicrobial activity (40).
Ref: 2,7,154,193,195,213.

Plukenetia polyadenia Muell. Arg. (Plukenetia abutaefolia (Ducke) Pax & Hoffm.)
USES: Stem: The French Guiana Palikur use the bark in a decoction for fever.
Ref: 2.

Plukenetia verrucosa J.E. Smith
USES: Stem: The Surinam Wayana crush the stem and mix it with the seed of Bixa orellana to make the red annatto dye last longer. Leaf: The Surinam Tirio rub crushed leaves onto skin rashes.
Ref: 8.

Ricinus communis L.
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USES: Leaf: Decoction as an external wash to regain health after a high fever. In French Guiana, the bruised leaves are applied onto women's breasts in order to slow the secretion of milk. Leaves used in a unstroke remedy. In Surinam, leaves are smeared with oil and applied onto painful places on the arm and leg by sufferers of filariasis. Tied onto head to relieve headache, and tied onto ulcers to relieve pain and swelling; infusion for fever. Leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as a treatment for reducing pain or fevers, by the Guyana Patamona. Seed: Oil is a purgative, cathartic, and used to strengthen the hair; to facilitate expulsion of the placenta in childbirth; liniment for painful muscles and spots of filariasis. Cotton saturated with warm castor oil is effectively applied to the anus for piles. Oil is used for grippe, colic and "pictonuma" in Guyana. In French Guiana, the seed is eaten as a purgative, for which 2 or 3 seeds are sufficient. Oil mixed with egg yolks is used for abscesses; crushed and placed on the stomach of women in labor; laxative; oil used to relieve pain of constipation. Part unspecified: Used by the Surinam Saramaccan as an ingredient in a curative herbal bath.

CHEM: Seed contains the toxalbumin ricine, and the alkaloid ricinine; vitamin E is plentiful. Leaf shows antimicrobial activity (40). Contains a tumor cell agglutinator, and has been proposed as a cancer treatment (3).

Ref: 2,3,4,14,154,166,168,173,190,193,195,237.

**Sagotia racemosa** Baillon


USES: Whole plant: Latex applied to extricate botfly larvae from the skin by the Surinam Tirio. Leaf: Sap from the petiole used to kill botfly larvae.

Ref: 8.

**Sapium ciliatum** Hemsley

USES: Stem: Bark of trunk contains latex made into a decoction used as an external wash for fever.

Ref: 2.

**Sebastiania corniculata** (Vahl) Muell. Arg. (*Microstachys guianensis* Klotzsch)

USES: Whole plant: Used in treatment of headaches, heart problems, sores, thrush, wounds and cuts in NW Guyana.

Ref: 245.

**FABACEAE**

**Abrus precatorius** L.

USES:  **Stem**: Bark decoction for stomachache, thrush, colds, coughs, sore throat and asthma; emollient; extract for cancer treatment.  **Stem and Leaf**: In French Guiana, the stems and leaves are mixed with the leaves, stems and roots of *Zea mays* for a tisane used to remedy mild inflammations of the urinary tract, diarrhoea, aphthae and hoarseness.  **Leaf**: Boiled with leaves of *Tamarindus indica*, *Annona muricata* and *Lantana camara* in a syrup for chest colds.  **Seed**: Decoction for chronic ulcers and ophthalmia, specifically trachoma of the conjunctiva.  **Root**: Liquorice substitute.  **CHEM**: Seed poisonous, containing the toxic abrin and abric acid. Plant extracts have been used as an effective oral contraceptive (3).  
Ref:  3,154,173,193,195.  

**Alexa imperatricis** (Rob. Schomb.) Baill.  
USES:  **Stem**: Exudate used for dandruff and for fleas and lice in NW Guyana. Bark used for ground itch, munuri ant (*Pariponera clavata*) bite, snakebite, sores and malaria in NW Guyana.  
Ref:  245.  

**Alexa wachenheimii** Benoist  
USES:  **Stem**: In French Guiana, a decoction of the bark is used as an external wash to remedy fever.  
Ref:  2,192,216.  

**Andira inermis** (Wright) DC.  
USES:  **Stem**: Decoction of bark for a powerful anthelmintic, narcotic and purgative; inner bark scraped and used to treat snakebite.  **Seed**: Burned for the smoke used for ridding a home of bats. Bitter, emetic, used as a vermifuge in French Guiana.  
CHEM:  Bark contains the alkaloids berberine and andirine (75). Fruit is poisonous.  
Ref:  3,9,154,173,192,193.  

**Andira racemosa** Lam.  
NAMES:  French Guiana: angelin, angelin a grappes.  
USES:  **Stem**: Bark is anthelmintic.  **Seed**: Anthelmintic.  
NOTES:  Plant introduced from Mexico to French Guiana.  
Ref:  154.  

**Andira surinamensis** (Bondt) Splitg. ex Amshoff  
USES:  **Stem**: Exudate used for mouth sores in NW Guyana.  
Ref:  245.
Andira spp.
USES: Stem: Infusion of the bark for an anthelmintic.
Ref: 195.

Arachis hypogaea L.
USES: Seed: In French Guiana, an oily emulsion of the seed is used to remedy inflammatory colic; hot peanut oil is applied in a compress to dislocations, sometimes when mixed with rum.
Ref: 154,216.

Cajanus cajan (L.) Millsp.
NAMES: FG Creole: pois d'Angola, pois d'Angole, pois de Angole, pois congo. FG Palikur: dakun.
USES: Stem, Leaf and Fruit: Shoots and green pods used for a good pectoral infusion. Leaf: Infusion is consumed for pulmonary conditions such as coughs and bronchitis. In Surinam, leaves are mixed in an infusion with Dactyloctenium aegyptium to accelerate childbirth. Juice used for haemorrhages; leaves decocted for washing ulcers. Boiled leaves applied to sores and wounds to hasten cicatrization. Leaves or pods boiled with salt and "steel drops" (ferric chloride solution) for treatment of leucorrhoea. Infusion for fever-bath, headaches; macerated for an antiperspirant or deodorant. Leaves used in a complex liquid with Plectranthus, cloves and "steel drops" for venereal disease. Leaf and Flower: Boiled for a diuretic and diabetes remedy. Flower: Infusion is pectoral. Seed: Infusion for a diuretic. Flour made from seeds is resolutive.
CHEM: Leaf contains cholesterol. Root-bark contains numerous flavones including cajaflavanone and cajanone, and triterpenes (76). Root contains cajanone, an antimicrobial agent (3).
Ref: 2,3,4,154,195,234.

Canavalia rosea (Sw.) DC. (Canavalia maritima Thouars; Dolichos obtusifolius Lam.)
USES: Root: Diuretic; contains a bitter and purgative principle. In French Guiana, the root is steeped in vinegar for gargles. Seed: Infusion used as a purgative.
Ref: 4,154.

Clathrotropis brachypetala (Tul.) Kleinhoonte
USES: Bark: Juice from macerated inner bark is used as a medicament for “bush-yaws”, by the Guyana Patamona. Infusion or poultice of bark is used to cleanse sores and ulcers, eye inflammation, and to treat scorpion, insect and snakebites. Bark used for abscesses, pain, snakebite,
sores, swelling in NW Guyana. ** Sap:** Exudate used for pain and itches in NW Guyana. **Stem and Leaf:** Decoction of bark and leaves is used in a bath to rid the body of lice, fleas and ticks. **CHEM:** Seed contains anagyrine, cytisine, delta 5-dehydro-lupanine, rhombifoline, 11-allylcysticine, lupanine and N-methylcysticine. Seed alkaloids are toxic to mice (78). **Ref:** 3,9,190,191,192,216,237,238,245.

**Clathrotropis macrocarpa** Ducke  
**NAMES:** Guyana Patamona: ka-woe-yik, ka-woi-yik.  
**USES:** Whole plant: Plant is used as a poison by the Guyana Patamona. Bark: Juice from macerated inner bark is used as an antipruritic or as a medicament for “bush-yaws”, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark is boiled, and the water used as an anti-fungal or for treating athlete’s foot, by the Guyana Patamona. Inner bark is scraped, mixed with warm water and used for washing persistent sores, by the Guyana Patamona.  
**Ref:** 237.

**Clitorea ternatea** L.  
**NAME:** Surinam: kembang telang.  
**USES:** Flower: Mixed with water in a preparation used for eye problems.  
**Ref:** 195.

**Crotalaria pallida** Aiton (*Crotalaria mucronata* Desv.)  
**NAMES:** Guyana: baby shak-shak, money bush, shak-shak.  
**USES:** Whole plant: Infusion used to bathe children to prevent skin infections and treat thrush. Boiled with salt and the liquid used for treating eczema and other skin conditions. Plant is toxic.  
**CHEM:** Alkaloids from the seed exhibit antitumor activity in rats (3).  
**Ref:** 3,234.

**Crotalaria pilosa** Miller  
**USES:** Root: Juice from macerated root is applied around the groin as an anti-herpetic or is used as an anti-syphilitic, by the Guyana Patamona.  
**Ref:** 237.

**Crotalaria retusa** L.  
**USES:** Whole plant: Infusion used to bathe children to prevent skin infections and treat thrush. Leaf and Flower: In a decoction to soothe a cold. **Seed:** Eaten raw as an analgesic for scorpion sting.  
**CHEM:** Contains hepatotoxic pyrrolizidine alkaloids, also called senecio alkaloids.  
**Ref:** 2,3.
Dalbergia monetaria L. fil. (*Ecastaphyllum monetaria* (L. fil.) Pers.)


**USES:**  Stem: Bark used by the French Guiana Palikur in a maceration to counteract diarrhea. Cold water infusion of the bark is used to relieve a condition causing blood in the stools among the Surinam Wayana.

**CHEM:**  Seed contains rotenoids and isoflavonoids (2).

Ref:  2,8,216.

Desmodium adscendens (Sw.) DC.

**NAMES:**  Guyana: ironweed, sweetheart, weak-back.

**USES:**  Whole plant: Decoction used to strengthen the kidneys and back, and to treat nervous conditions and eczema.

**NOTES:**  Indians of the Rio Pastaza use a leaf tea to wash female breasts when they lack milk (10).

Ref:  3.

Desmodium barbatum (L.) Benth.

**NAMES:**  Guyana: ironweed, sweetheart, watchman.

**USES:**  Whole plant: Decoction used to treat coughs and colds and to reduce blood-sugar level. Used for cramps (babies), stomachache, pain, fever, hemorrhage, heart problems, impotence, menstruation, and to prevent miscarriage in NW Guyana.  Leaf: Used for hair loss in NW Guyana.

Ref:  3,245.

Desmodium guianense DC. (*Hedysarum guianense* Aublet)

**NAMES:**  French Guiana: petit cousin des savanes, petit cousin savane.

**USES:**  Leaf: For dysentery, intestinal flux.

Ref:  154,168.

Desmodium incanum (Sw.) DC. (*Desmodium canum* (J. Gmelin) Schinz & Thell.)

**NAMES:**  Guyana: backdam-sweetheart, backdam-watchman, ironweed, sweetheart, sweet heart.

**USES:**  Whole plant: Mixed with congo pump (*Cecropia* sp.) and/or *Leonotis nepetifolia* to treat kidney defects. Mixed with *Asclepias curassavica* and *Phyllanthus amarus* to treat womb ailments. Used for wounds, cuts and hemorrhage in NW Guyana.

Ref:  3,238,245.

Desmodium spp.

**NAME:**  Surinam: toriman.

**USES:**  Leaf: Infusion for fever.

Ref:  195.
**Dioclea aff. macrocarpa** Huber

**NAMES:** Surinam Arawak: nebiyoro. Surinam Tirio: pah-de.

**USES:** Seed: The Surinam Tirio rasp the seeds in a cold water infusion which is rubbed onto the hair to prevent premature graying.

**Ref:** 8.

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**Dioclea scabra** (Rich.) Maxwell

**USES:** Stem: Exudate used for diarrhea, mouth sores and stomachache in NW Guyana.

**Ref:** 245.

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**Dipteryx odorata** (Aublet) Willd.


**USES:** Stem: Trunk-bark decoction for an astringent febrifuge wash. Bark decoction mixed with crushed whole *Tonina fluviatilis* to prepare an infant fortifier. Seed: Mixed with rum in an alcoholic extract which is rubbed on snakebite, contusions and rheumatism. Decocted in water and sugar for a cold remedy. Seed-oil effective in controlling dysentery. Leaf: The Sikiyana-Chikena people of Surinam use a cold water infusion as an earwash to treat earache. Crushed for snuff powder in Surinam.

**CHEM:** Seed contains coumarin used in perfume and for flavoring tobacco and whisky. Bark contains isoflavones and umbelliferone; leaf contains salicylic, hydroxycoumaric, coumaric and ferulic acids (10,79).

**NOTES:** This plant is the source of the tonka bean used commercially in perfume and soaps; the Surinam Tirio use the aromatic oil to scent their hair.

**Ref:** 2,8,9,154,173,192,195,216,238.

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**Dipteryx punctata** (Blake) Amshoff


**USES:** Stem: Decoction of trunk-bark used as an external was for a febrifuge. Bark is mixed in a decoction with the crushed whole plant of *Tonina fluviatilis* as an infant fortifier. Seed: Mixed with rum in an alcoholic extract rubbed on snakebite, contusions and rheumatism.

**Ref:** 2,193.

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**Eriosema crinitum** (H.B.K.) G. Don

**USES:** Whole plant: Plant is boiled on water and drunk as an antimalarial, by the Guyana Patamona. Root: Roots are boiled and the water drunk as an antimalarial, by the Guyana Patamona.

**Ref:** 237.
**Erythrina coralloidendron** L.
USES: Stem: Bark contains a narcotic alkaloid affecting the central nervous system without affecting the motor activity or muscle contractility. Stem and Leaf: Crushed and applied to venereal buboes, and in a cataplasm for cephalalgia. Flower: Bark and flowers for asthma.
CHEM: Plant contains the glycoside migarrhine (154).
Ref: 154,216.

**Erythrina fusca** Lour. (*Erythrina glauca* Willd.)
USES: Root: Decoction prepared as a sudorific to treat feverish maladies such as malaria and grippe. Stem: Stem-bark and root-bark are mixed with stem-bark of *Parkia pendula* in a cataplasm for violent and persistent headache. Flower: In a decoction drunk as an antitussive. Root, Stem-bark and Seed: Employed as a sudorific in Guyana.
CHEM: Seed contains the anaesthetic alkaloid erythroidine.
Ref: 2,9,192.

**Geoffroea violacea** Pers.
NAMEs: French Guiana: acouroa, acuroa, acourou.
USES: Fruit: Used in treatment of telluric tetanus.
Ref: 154.

**Hymenolobium flavum** Kleinh.
USES: Stem: Bark used to treat sores in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

**Hymenolobium nitidum** Benth.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: te-be-ling-yik
USES: Whole plant: Plant is placed in a bag, macerated, and allowed to stand in water as a means to immobilize fish for harvesting, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Indigofera gerardiana** R.C. Grah. (*Indigofera polyphylla* DC.)
USES: Root: Vermifuge. Leaf: Irritant, purgative; powdered for a hepatitis remedy.
NOTES: Plant introduced from the Himalayan region to French Guiana.
Ref: 154.
**Indigofera suffruticosa** Miller (*Indigofera anil* L.)

NAMES: FG Creole: erysipele, indigo.

USES: Root and Seed: Infused in rum for a vermifuge. Leaf: Fresh leaves in a warm bath function as a calmative; decoction is resolutive and sudorific. Used for fever in NW Guyana.  
Ref: 154,245.

**Indigofera** sp.


USES: Whole plant: Macerated plant is used in stagnant water as a fish poison, by the Guyana Patamona. Plant is boiled, and the water used as an insecticide, by the Guyana Patamona. Seed: Dry seeds are boiled with water until the liquid is viscous and then used as a dye, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**Lonchocarpus chrysophyllus** Kleinhoonte


USES: Root: Used for AIDS, cancer and sores in NW Guayana. Stem: Raw sap mixed with crushed stem of *Rhipsalis baccifera* is rubbed on bite of coral snake by the French Guiana Wayapi; bark used for a fish poison; bark is used to treat bite of the *Labaria* snake and scorpion sting. Bark boiled with *Costus scaber*, *Justicia pectoralis* and alum as an astringent for severe coughs.  
CHEM: The active ichthyotoxic (piscicidal) principle is rotenone, which is used to asphyxiate fish even when much diluted, and is also an insecticide (166).  
Ref: 2,3,20,192,245.

**Lonchocarpus floribundus** Benth.

NAMES: Guyana Patamona: ay-yaw-yik, tu-pu-ray-king-yik (white hiariiri), black hiariiri.

USES: Root: Macerated roots are added to water as a fish poison, and are used for washing the head to get rid of lice, by the Guyana Patamona. Root and Stem: Roots and stems are used as a fish poison, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark: Macerated bark is used as a fish poison by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**Lonchocarpus cf. floribundus** Benth.

NAME: Guyana Patamona: a-ya-yik.

USES: Bark and Wood: Bark and wood are bundled together, ground and used as a fish poison, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.
Lonchocarpus cf. hedyosmus Miq.
USES: Root: Macerated roots are used as a fish poison by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Lonchocarpus heptaphyllus (Poir.) DC. (Lonchocarpus latifolius (Willd.) Kunth)
USES: Stem and Leaf: The Surinam Tirio boil a decoction of the wood and leaves which is rubbed onto skin rashes. Stem: Liquid from the cut liana is dripped onto skin by the Surinam Akuriyo to kill parasitic botfly larvae. Crushed wood is used for a piscicide by the Surinam Tirio and French Guiana Galibi. In Suriname, finely grated wood is used in a preparation with water for remedying diarrhoea. Leaf: Irritant, purgative, vomitive.
CHEM: Rotenone is concentrated in the root (195).
Ref: 8,149,154,195.

Lonchocarpus cf. heptaphyllus (Poir.) DC.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: black hiariri.
USES: Root: Roots are used as a fish poison by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Lonchocarpus martynii A.C. Smith
USES: Root: Decoction for venereal diseases. Root and Stem: Roasted, pulverised, mixed with oil, and applied to relieve pain. Used for AIDS, cancer and sores in NW Guyana. Stem: Decoction for a tranquilizer; bark considered in Guyana a more effective piscicide than Lonchocarpus chrysophyllus.
NOTES: An undetermined species of Lonchocarpus known to the Surinam Tirio as "neh-ku-e-muh", and to the Surinam Wayana as "te-da-te-da", provides bark and sap for a wash to relieve abdominal pain believed induced by an evil spell (8).
Ref: 3,192,245.

Lonchocarpus rufescens Benth. (Robinia nicou Aublet)
USES: Root: Used as a fish poison in the Maroni region of French Guiana.
CHEM: Root contains nicouline, a stupefactant chemical in the range of such alkaloids as opium, atropine, aconitine, nicotine and conicine (154).
Ref: 154,168.
Lonchocarpus sp. TVA 1247
Ref: 245.

Lonchocarpus sp.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: a-ya-yik.
USES: Root: Roots are used as a fish poison by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Machaerium aff. floribundum Bentham
USES: Whole plant: Sap is used by the Surinam Tirio as a medicinal wash. Exudate: Used for diarrhea, hemorrhage and thrush in NW Guyana.
Ref: 8,192,245.

Machaerium lunatum (L. fil.) Ducke (Drepanocarpus lunatus (L. fil.) G.F.W. Meyer)
USES: Whole plant: Liana is cut and the liquid used as a wash for sick Surinam Tirio children. Leaf: For a styptic (compress to stop bleeding).
NOTES: Undetermined plants resembling or related closely to Machaerium lunatum, and known to the Surinam Tirio as "ah-de-boi-muh" and "muh-kah-geh-yeh", provide latex from the cut plant which is applied to leishmaniasis sores, machete cuts and other wounds to accelerate healing. Other undetermined Machaerium species known to the Surinam Tirio as "uh-de-bo" and "wuh-tow" provide bark for infusions and decoctions to treat fevers (8).
Ref: 8,14,192,195,216.

Mucuna pruriens (L.) DC.
USES: Root: Purgative. Stem and Leaf: Hairs (trichomes) are an urticant. Fruit: Irritant hairs on the fruit are mixed with a greasy solid substance and made into pills which are consumed as an anthelmintic. This acts as a purge to expel the parasitic worms.
Ref: 2,154.

Mucuna sloanei Fawcett & Rendle
USES: Seed: Old French Guianan gold-panners make a hernia remedy by roasting, crushing and mixing the seeds in gin. Seed is superstitiously carried by certain French Guianans of Steinte-Lucienne in order to protect against hemorrhoids. In Surinam, the seeds are ground into a
powder which is mixed with sweet oil, and applied to areas affected by filaria worms, or to a painful groin.  
Ref: 2,195,216.

**Mucuna urens** (L.) DC.  *(Dolichos urens L.)*


**USES:**  
- **Root:** Root mixed with honey is used to combat cholera by French Guianans originally from Malabar, India.  
- **Fruit and Seed:** In Guyana, the hairs are mixed in molasses syrup and drunk as a vermifuge to expel intestinal worms, with a chaser of rhubarb juice.  
- **Stem and Seed:** Cataplasm of the bark and ground seeds is recommended for inguinal hernia in French Guiana.  
- **Fruit:** Hairs on the fruit cause severe itching on the skin (Guyana Patamona).  
- **Seed:** Used for itches in NW Guyana.  
- **Part unspecified:** Used for treating intestinal worms, by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.

**CHEM:**  
Contains physostigmine (33).

Ref: 7,9,154,190,192,237,238,245.

**Mucuna cf. urens** (L.) DC.

**NAMES:** Surinam Tirio: tah-mo-ko a-nu.  Surinam Wayana: tah-wah-a-u.  

**USES:**  
- **Whole plant:** Sap from the cut liana is rubbed on sprains, rheumatic areas, contusions, sore muscles and used for children's fever by the Surinam Tirio.  
- **Leaf:** The Surinam Wayana use a cold water infusion of crushed leaves for a wash to relieve abdominal pains.

**NOTES:** This plant, when used for children's fever, has the separate name of "tah-mo-kom-pu a-nu".

Ref: 8.

**Myroxylon peruiferum** L. fil.

**NAME:** Guyana Patamona: pu-wa-yik.  

**USES:**  
- **Bark:** Bark is scraped and boiled and the water drunk for colds and diarrhea, by the Guyana Patamona.  
- **Fruit:** Crushed fruits are used as an inhalant for treating asthma, by the Guyana Patamona.  
- **Fruits:** Fruits are strung in a necklace and worn around the neck so that their odor can be inhaled to clear the nasal and respiratory system as a treatment for colds, by the Guyana Patamona.

Ref: 237.

**Ormosia cf. coarctata** B.D. Jackson

**NAMES:**  
- Guyana Arawak: barakaro.  
- Surinam Tirio: wuh-to.

**USES:**  
- **Seed:** The Surinam Tirio place the seeds in fire and allow the smoke to bathe the genitals of men and women suffering from gonorrhoea.

Ref: 8,192.

**Ormosia coutinhoi** Ducke
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**Phaseolus lunatus** L.


USES: Leaf: Juice mixed with coconut oil or castor oil is administered to children to improve their strength; for fever and as an emetic.

Ref: 195.

**Piscidia piscipula** (L.) Sargent (*Piscidia erythrina* L.)


USES: Stem-bark and Root: Used by the French Guiana Galibi in an alcoholic tincture for a remarkably effective analgesic for toothache and neuralgia, and a calming soporific for insomnia.

NOTES: This neotropical species does not occur spontaneously in French Guiana, so the identification must be regarded as provisional determination of an introduced plant.

Ref: 154.

**Platymiscium** sp.

NAME: Surinam Wayana: kah-mu.

USES: Stem: Bark is rasped in a cold water infusion by the Surinam Wayana to treat fevers.

Ref: 8.

**Pterocarpus officinalis** Jacq.


USES: Whole plant: Hardened sap (exudate), called "dragon's blood", is used medicinally. Stem: Infusion of outer bark used to treat dysentery. Exudate used for diarrhea, mouth sores and thrush in NW Guyana.

Ref: 9,192,216,245.

**Pueraria phaseoloides** (Roxb.) Benth.

USES: Whole plant: Plant is boiled, and the water is used as an anti-infective, by the Guyana Patamona.
Sesbania grandiflora (L.) Pers. (Agati grandiflora (L.) Desv.)
NAME: Surinam Javan: toeri.
USES: Stem: Bark in a decoction used for stomach pains. Leaf: Juice for a gargle against mouth sprue. Used for medicinal purposes principally by people of Javan ancestry in Surinam. Ref: 14,195.

Tephrosia cinerea (L.) Pers. (Galega cinerea L.)

Tephrosia purpurea (L.) Pers. (Galega sericea Buch.)

Tephrosia sinapou (Buch.) Chev. (Galega sinapou Buch.; Tephrosia toxicaria (Swartz) Pers.)
USES: Root: Used for treating cancer in NW Guyana. Root and Stem: Juice is a fish poison (ichthyotoxic); decoction of leafy branches is drunk to treat snakebite and as an antisyphilitic. French Guiana Galibi use a decoction to remedy blennorrhagia. Stem and Leaf: Fish poison. Stem: In French Guiana, a decoction is used for heart palpitations, as a digitalis substitute. Leaf: Crushed and applied as a hair-wash to rid the hair of lice. CHEM: Root contains tephrosine, a less active ichthyotoxin than rotenone. NOTES: This plant is cultivated by various Guyana Amerindians as a fish poison. Ref: 2,3,20,154,168,192,200,216,245.

Vatairea guianensis Aublet (Andira amazonum Mart. ex Benth.)
USES: Whole plant: Infusion of bark, fruit-sap and coconut oil used for ringworm and eczema. Stem: Bark decoction for ulcers. Bark used for scabies in NW Guyana. Leaf and Seed: To make a pomade remedy for skin disease. Seed: In a plaster to treat itches and skin disease such as dartre; a less effective plaster for these ailments is sometimes made with grated bark of the tree. Used for
eczema, scabies and sores in NW Guyana. **Part unspecified:** Used for treating wounds and ringworm by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.

**CHEM:** Wood contains quinones and chrisophanic acid which are active on certain dermatitis problems.

Ref: 2,9,154,168,192,216,238,245.

**Vataireopsis speciosa** Ducke


**USES:** **Root:** The Saramakas of French Guiana prepare a drug from the wood of the root, and use a decoction of it to treat certain skin diseases such as leishmaniasis and eczema. **Stem:** Bark decoction for a wash to treat fever. Inner bark rasped and rubbed onto skin rashes and sores. **Leaf:** Decoction used externally to treat fever.

Ref: 8,240.

**Vataireopsis surinamensis** Lima

**NAMES:** FG Palikur: warukamwi. FG Saramaka: djago.

**USES:** **Root:** Barks of root and trunk are finely ground and mixed in water for a cataplasm to remedy erysipelas. **Stem:** Bark of trunk in a decoction for leishmaniasis and various types of dermatitis.

**CHEM:** Heartwood contains anthraquinones.

Ref: 2.

**Vigna unguiculata** (L.) Walp. (**Vigna sinensis** (L.) Hassk.)

**NAMES:** Surinam: djari persie, djarpesi, kousebantie.

**USES:** **Leaf:** The Surinam Bush Negroes crush the leaves and use them in a preparation to heal and bond fractured bones.

Ref: 195,216.

**Zornia latifolia** J.E. Smith var. **latifolia** (**Zornia diphylla** sensu auct., non (L.) Pers.)

**NAMES:** FG Creole: herbe canard, zerb canard.

**USES:** **Whole plant:** Juice is used to calm inflamed intestines.

Ref: 2.

**FLACOURTIACEAE**

**Banara guianensis** Aublet
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Uses: Stem: Bark decoction as a wash for malaria. Leaf: Crushed in a decoction used as a wash for fever. Five leaves are decocted in one-third liter of water by the French Guiana Creole for a morning drink to soothe the liver.
Ref: 2, 8.

Casearia aff. acuminata DC.
Uses: Stem: Bark used to treat ground itch in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

Casearia glomerata Roxb. (Guidonia glomerata (Roxb.) Kurz)
Uses: Stem: Bark is bitter. Leaf: In baths for rheumatism. Fruit: Diuretic.
Notes: Plant introduced from India to French Guiana.
Ref: 154.

Homalium guianense (Aublet) Oken (Racoubea guianensis Aublet)
Uses: Root: Used in a herbal tea for gonorrhoea on French Guiana. Part unspecified: For urethritis in French Guiana.
Ref: 149, 168, 192.

Homalium racemosum Jacquin
Uses: Root: Decoction drunk to treat gonorrhoea in 18th century French Guiana. Leaf: The Surinam Tirio use a decoction as a wash for treating fevers.
Ref: 8, 154.

Mayna odorata Aublet
Uses: Stem: Bark in a decoction for venereal chancre, and pustules which form on legs; bark and leaves mixed in a decoction or drinkable maceration for diarrhoea; bark grated and pressed onto navel of infant to accelerate cicatrisation of the umbilicus.
Notes: The Ketchwa people of Ecuador use a decoction of the root for a contraceptive (10).
Ref: 2.

Fungi
Gloeoporus thelephoroides (Hooker) G.H. Cunningham
NAME: Surinam Tirio: go-lo-be.
USES: Whole plant: The Surinam Tirio squeeze the fungus, and the liquid expressed from it is dripped into aching ears to relieve earache.
Ref: 8.

Lycoperdon americanum L.
USES: Whole plant: Used with caution as a haemostatic.
Ref: 154.

Rhizomorpha corynephora Kunze
USES: Mycelium: The French Guiana Wayana, and Boni people in the Maroni region, ingest the mycelium of this fungus (Hyphomycetae - Mycelia Sterilia) to induce abortion. Ingested raw for urinary conditions; rubbed on the abdomen of children having incontinence of urine. Boiled mycelium is employed by women of the French Guiana Palikur to stop inter-menstrual discharge.
Ref: 2.

GENTIANACEAE

Coutoubea ramosa Aublet
USES: Whole plant: For re-establishing the menstrual cycle, and treating stomach ailments, including intestinal worms. Leaf: Decoction is bitter, stomachic, vermifuge and febrifuge.
Ref: 2,149,154.

Coutoubea spicata Aublet (Exacum spicatum (Aublet) Wahl.)
USES: Whole plant: Same uses as those given for Coutoubea ramosa. Leaf: Decoction is bitter, stomachic, vermifuge and febrifuge; emmenagogue.
Ref: 2,149,154,168.

Curtia tenuifolia (Aublet) Knobl. (Exacum tenuifolium Aublet)
USES: Leaf: Infusion is bitter, used for a febrifuge.
**Eustoma exaltata** (L.) Sal. (*Gentiana exaltata* L.)

**NAME:** French Guiana: gentiane.

**USES:** *Leaf:* Decoction is an excellent febrifuge.

**NOTES:** Plant introduced from North America to French Guiana.

Ref: 154.

**Irlbachia alata** (Aublet) Maas subsp. *alata* (*Chelonanthus alatus* Pulle; *Lisianthus alatus* Aublet; *Lisianthus chelonoides* L. fil.; *Lisianthus grandiflorus* Aublet)


**USES:** *Whole plant:* French Guiana Palikur employ a saline decoction to thin the bile. For gastric disturbances; purgative; for visceral obstructions; bitter, febrifuge. Used as laxative in NW Guyana. *Stem:* Sap used for bete rouge, itches and eczema in NW Guyana. *Leaf:* The Guyana Arawak use an infusion of leaves to treat smallpox. Decoction is employed to bathe sores and is drunk to treat colds, jaundice, and to cleanse the blood. Leaf and leaf-juice are used to treat eczema. Plant is very toxic, and a slight overdosage may be fatal. Used for sores, ground itch, coughs and colds, fever, biliousness, malaria, and for “evil spirits” in NW Guyana.

Ref: 2,3,7,9,16,18,149,154,209,234,245.

**Irlbachia caerulescens** (Aublet) Griseb.

**USES:** *Whole plant:* Bitter; used for a febrifuge in French Guiana.

Ref: 154.

**Irlbachia purpurascens** (Aublet) Maas

**NAMES:** French Guiana: tachy.

**USES:** *Whole plant:* Bitter; used for a febrifuge and aperitive in French Guiana. **Root:** To reduce fever; very bitter. **Stem:** Decoction to treat fever.

Ref: 7,109,149,154.

**Schultesia guianensis** (Aublet) Malme

**NAMES:** French Guiana: centauree, centaurelle, petite centauree.

**USES:** **Root and Leaf:** Infusion is bitter, used as an aperitive, febrifuge and emmenagogue.

Ref: 154,168.

**Tachia guianensis** Aublet

**USES:** Same uses as given for *Irlbachia purpurascens*.

Ref: 9.
**Voyria caerulea** Aublet
USES: Whole plant: Bitter; used as a tonic for the gastrointestinal tract in French Guiana.

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**GESNERIACEAE**

**Codonanthe crassifolia** (Focke) C. Martin
USES: Leaf: In NW Guyana, used for sore eyes and to improve eyesight.
Ref: 245.

**Columnnea calotricha** J.D. Smith
USES: Leaf: Macerated in water as an external wash for a febrifuge; cataplasm rubbed on the head to relieve headache.
Ref: 2.

**Drymonia coccinea** (Aublet) Wiehler
NAME: FG Creole: crete poule.
USES: Leaf: The French Guiana Wayapi rub pulverised leaves on the body as an external febrifuge.
NOTES: The Mayna Jivaro of Ecuador employ this species for an anodyne to alleviate painful gums and teeth (10).
Ref: 2.

**Nautilocalyx kohlerioides** (Leeuwenberg) Wiehler
USES: Leaf: Macerated in water as an external wash for a febrifuge; cataplasm rubbed on the head to relieve headache.
Ref: 2.

**Paradrymonia campostyla** (Leeuwenberg) Wiehler
USES: Stem and Leaf: The French Guiana Wayapi use a decoction of aerial parts of the plant in an external bath for a febrifuge.
Ref: 2.
GNETACEAE

**Gnetum nodiflorum** Brongn.

USES: **Whole plant**: Liquid originating from the plant is used as a wash for treating weakness, "skinniness" and loss of appetite by the Surinam Wayana. The Surinam Tirio use a decoction of the crushed plant for treating headache. **Nut**: Used as abortive in NW Guyana.
Ref: 8,245.

**Gnetum urens** (Aublet) Blume

NAME: FG Galibi: thoa.
USES: **Stem**: Exudate from the cut branches was drunk as a substitute for water in 18th century French Guiana.
Ref: 8,149.

HAEMODORACEAE

**Xiphidium caeruleum** Aublet

USES: **Whole plant**: The French Guiana Wayapi use a decoction to reduce the excessive crying of infants. **Root**: Used for wounds/cuts and for swelling in NW Guyana. **Leaf**: Surinam Arawak use leaves to treat cracks in skin of feet sometimes caused by framboesia. Warm decoction used by Surinam Tirio to bathe wounds caused by palm spines.
NOTES: The French Guiana Wayapi lightly whip hyperactive children with the leaves, believing that it serves as an exorcism (54).
Ref: 2,8,157,245.

HELICONIACEAE

**Heliconia acuminata** L.C. Rich.

USES: **Whole plant**: Decoction of crushed plant drunk as treatment for stomachache and constipation.
Ref: 8.
Heliconia bihai (L.) L.
USES: Root: Infusion for a diuretic and astringent. Leaf: Infusion used to ease expulsion of the fetus at childbirth.
Ref: 4,154.

HERNANDIACEAE

Hernandia guianensis Aublet
USES: Stem: Juice from the bark is used as a depilatory and to kill lice in the hair. Leaf: Juice of young leaves is a mild depilatory. Inflorescence and Fruit: Used in a decoction to remedy whooping cough by the French Guiana Palikur. Stem, Leaf and Seed: Bark, young leaves and seeds are mildly purgative. Seed: Kernel is an ingredient in a purgative emulsion.
CHEM: Contains numerous alkaloids including hervonine, nandigerine, actinodaphnine and laurotetanine; antitumor and cytostatic chemicals also occur (80,81,82).
Ref: 2,9,154,192.

HIPPOCRATEACEAE

Prionostemma aspera (Lam.) Miers
NAME: Surinam Tirio: kah-pe.
USES: Whole plant: Exudate used as a topical treatment for skin rash. Stem: Bark is heated and applied to serious burns, and is believed to soothe the pain and accelerate healing. Exudate from bark is applied to cuts and external wounds.
Ref: 8.

HUMIRIACEAE

Humiria balsamifera (Aublet) A. St.Hil. var. balsamifera
USES: Stem: Tannin-rich bark is used in a decoction to reduce toothache, and mixed with species of Hymenaea and Manilkara to cure dysentery; bark macerated in water and applied onto erysipelas; bark infusion to remedy amoebic dysentery, coughs, smallpox. Bark decoction for throat...
disease. Yields a red, balsamic oleoresin called "baume-resine Houmouri" used for a taenicide and to treat blennorrhagia. The warmed oil is applied as a liniment on inflamed joints. **Fruit:** Surinam Amerindians prepare an alcoholic drink from the fruit. **Part unspecified:** As a dressing on "buck sick"; for dry stomachache.

**CHEM:** Active antidysenteric principle is the polyphenol bergenine.

Ref: 2,9,14,154,190,192.

**Humiria balsamifera** (Aublet) A. St.Hil. var. **floribunda** (Martius) Cuatrecasas

**NAMES:** FG Arrouague: couranoura. FG Galibi: niori.

**USES:** Stem: In a tisane used to treat blennorrhagia.

Ref: 154.

**Sacoglottis aff. cydonioides** Cuatrecasas

**USES:** Stem: Bark used in treatment of diarrhea in NW Guyana.

Ref: 245.

**HYMENOPHYLLACEAE**

**Hymenophyllum polyanthos** (Swartz) Swartz


**USES:** Whole plant: Among the Surinam Tirio the smoke from a burning plant is inhaled, and ashes rubbed on cheeks of person afflicted with dizziness or "crazy head", the latter perhaps being insanity or epilepsy. The Surinam Wayana wash hands and feet in a decoction of the boiled plant to treat pain and possibly cramps.

Ref: 8.

**Trichomanes vittaria** DC. ex Poiret


**USES:** Whole plant: Plant torn in half and pressed against abdomen to treat aching kidneys by the Surinam Tirio. Decoction drunk by Surinam Wayana for cough. **Part unspecified:** Used by the Surinam Akuriyo to pacify crying children.

**NOTES:** The Guyana Waiwai boil an unidentified species of *Trichomanes* with leaves of *Buchenavia parvifolia* in a decoction to remedy internal bleeding (8).

Ref: 8.

**HYPOXIDACEAE**
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**Curculigo scorzonerifolia** (Lam.) Baker
Ref: 154.

**Hypoxis decumbens** L.
Ref: 154.

**ICACINACEAE**

**Emmotum fagifolium** Desv. ex Hamilton
USES: Stem: Decoction of bark is used to bathe ulcers.
Ref: 9,192.

**Poraqueiba guianensis** Aublet
USES: Part unspecified: Used by the Surinam Tirio and Wayapi in an hallucinogenic mixture (see *Brunfelsia guianensis*). Stem: Bark used for itches in NW Guyana.
Ref: 8,245.

**IRIDACEAE**

**Cipura paludosa** Aublet
USES: Bulb: Dried, finely pulverised bulb is made into a syrup for heart ailments. Employed in the treatment of spasms and tetanus. Mixed with laudanum for children's convulsions.
NOTES: The Tikuna of Colombia drink a decoction of the boiled bulb to relieve diarrhoea (10).
Ref: 2,154,168.

**Eleutherine bulbosa** (Miller) Urban
USES: Root: Used for female infertility and hemorrhage in NW Guyana. Bulb: In a plaster applied to sprains; for tired blood. Sap is mixed with salt to remedy epileptic fits, and sometimes mixed with rum and rubbed on the body for that purpose. Pulverised pulp of the bulb is mixed with oil to which a cockroach is added, and used to treat an infected wound caused by rusty nail; crushed bulb in a plaster to encourage cicatrization of wounds.
CHEM: Bulb contains chrysophanol naphthoquinones and anthraquinones.
Ref: 2,245.

**LAMIACEAE**

**Coleus amboinicus** Lour.
USES: Leaf: Used for coughs and colds in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

**Hyptis atrorubens** Poiteau
USES: Whole plant: Decoction employed as a cough medicine by the French Guiana Palikur. Stem and Leaf: Macerated in an infusion with manioc farina for a refreshing drink to calm upset stomach (indigestion). Leaf: Infusion of crushed leaves is drunk for persistent colds.
CHEM: Essential oils of the genus *Hyptis* contain thymol, camphor and citral.
Ref: 2,195,231.

**Hyptis capitata** Jacq.
NAMES: FG Creole: melisse des carmes, melisse indienne.
USES: Leaf: Infusion used as a sedative and calmative, and to reduce heart palpitations.
NOTES: In northwestern Amazonia, an infusion of the leaves is used to treat "black diarrhoea" (10).
Ref: 4,168.

**Hyptis lanceolata** Poiret
USES: Whole plant: Infusion or bath for grippe and as a stomachic. Leaf: Prepared in a febrifuge decoction by the French Guiana Wayapi. Infusion of crushed leaves is drunk for persistent colds and to reduce perspiration.
Ref: 2,193,195,231.

**Hyptis lantanifolia** Poit.
USES: Stem and Leaf: Leaves and stems are boiled and the water drunk as a medication for colds, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf: Juice from macerated leaves is used as an antibacterial or is squeezed in the eye to cure conjunctivitis and eye infections, by the Guyana Patamona. Extract of macerated leaves is warmed and applied to athlete’s foot as an anti-fungal, by the Guyana Patamona.
Patamona. Warm leaf is tied onto the infected area as an anti-fungal, by the Guyuana Patamona. Leaves are ground and used for flavoring foods, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Hyptis mutabilis** (Rich.) Briq. *(Hyptis spicata* Poiteau)  
**USES:** Whole plant: Pounded and mixed with salt for treating "buck sick" ("Carib sick") in Guyana. Pounded in an infusion for bowel problems. Leaf: Juice from crushed leaves used for a children's vermifuge, in the form of a drink or a body-rub, in French Guiana. Pounded and placed on sores or cuts with good effect.  
**CHEM:** Contains an essential oil rich in sesquiterpenes.  
Ref: 2,190,231.

**Hyptis parkeri** Benth.  
**NAME:** Guyana Patamona: wa-ra-tak-pu-ta-yik.  
**USES:** Whole plant: Plant is macerated in the hands and used for massaging babies, especially the limbs and joints, in order to strengthen bones, by the Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**Hyptis pectinata** (L.) Poiteau  
**USES:** Whole plant: Plant is boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-astmatic or to treat tuberculosis, by the Guyana Patamona. Ground and brewed as a tea for diarrhoea; decoction used by men to build sexual stamina (aphrodisiac). Used to treat lining cold in NW Guyana. Stem and Leaf: Decoction of aerial parts is drunk to alleviate liver problems. Stem: Decoction of bark is used to treat menstrual problems and diarrhoea. Leaf: Macerated leaves are used an an emollient, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves are boiled, and the water used for treating persistent sores, by the Guyana Patamona. In Guyana, leaves are used in a tea for cleansing the blood and a decoction is used as a remedy for thrush.  
**CHEM:** Plant contains the lactone hyptolide.  
Ref: 2,3,234,245,237.

**Hyptis recurvata** Poiteau  
**NAMES:** FG Creole: radie savon. FG Palikur: asukwipna.  
**USES:** Whole plant: Produces foam in water (like soap), and used as an external wash to soothe pustular eruptions and pimples.  
Ref: 2.

**Leonotis leonurus** R. Brown  
**NAME:** French Guiana: pompon.
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USES: Leaf: Infusion used for a chologogue and digestive. Ref: 4.

**Leonotis nepetifolia** (L.) R. Brown


USES: Whole plant: Boiled with *Hyptis pectinata, Mikania micrantha* and *Momordica charantia* as a wash for piles. Decoction is employed to clean out the uterus; diuretic; tonic to strengthen the back. In a decoction with *Heliotropium indicum* for bed-wetting. Infusion for diarrhoea and heavy cramps. Leaf and flower: Chologogue; infusion as an antidyserteric; decocted with salt or sugar in a preparation to dissolve renal calculi. Leaf: Juice for thrush. In a plaster for wounds. Cooked in an infusion which is drunk to treat itches and skin diseases; for yaws.

CHEM: Ethanolic extract of the plant showed antitumor and possibly antimicrobial activity (3,12).

NOTES: In Rwanda, leaves of this plant are used to treat pneumonia, anthrax and syphilis (77).

Ref: 2,3,12,195,231.

**Marsypianthes chamaedrys** (Vahl) Kuntze


USES: Stem and Leaf: A refreshing and digestive infusion is prepared in order to soothe upset stomach or serve as a laxative; decoction rubbed on forehead to remedy headache.

Ref: 2.

**Ocimum basilicum** L. ‘Minimum’ (*Ocimum minimum* L.)

NAME: French Guiana: petit basilic.

USES: Leaf: Infusion for a sedative and antispasmodic.

Ref: 168.

**Ocimum campechianum** P. Mill. (*Ocimum americanum* Benth.; *Ocimum micranthum* Willd.)


USES: Leaf and Seed: Leaf juice and seed oil for an eyewash. Leaf: Macerated for an external febrifuge wash; ground and rubbed on abdomen to soothe a colic. French Guiana Wayapi use leaves to combat parasitic ankylostome larvae embedded between toes by rubbing the area with *Capsicum frutescens*, and then using hot foot-bath of *Ocimum* in a decoction with *Begonia glabra* and *Citrus aurantiifolia*. Leaves are used in Surinam as a sweat-reducer and in herbal baths. Infusion for eyewash, colds, sedative and antispasmodic. Bruised leaves for reducing tumors. Ingredient of a cordial, bechic, aromatic, cephalic, diuretic and emmenagogue. For remedying swollen groin, and red sediment in urine. Seed: Fine powder of dried seeds is applied to irritated eyes of children. Used to treat film on eye in NW Guyana.

CHEM: Contains camphor, eugenol, methyleugenol and estragol (3). The essential oil is evidently an antiseptic.

Ref: 2,3,4,14,154,168,193,195,231,245.
Ocimum gratissimum L.
USES: Stem and Leaf: A tea is made from aerial parts of the plant to treat colds, especially chest colds, and to remedy pains of wind (flatulence) in the stomach. Leaf: Infusion for a sedative and antispasmodic.
CHEM: An essential oil obtained from the leaf showed marked antibacterial activity (3).
Ref: 3,168.

Ocimum sanctum L.
USES: Stem and Leaf: Aerial parts in a tea to treat chest colds and alimentary disorders, such as stomach pains caused by flatulence. Leaf: Juice dropped into the ear to treat earache, and also used as an antiseptic. For skin spots and skin conditions. Leaf and Flower: Decoction to remedy colds.
CHEM: Leaf extract shows immunostimulatory, anti-inflammatory, antipyretic and analgesic activity (83,84). Essential oils from leaf show antibacterial and antifungal activity (3). Contains methylchaviol, eugenol and other volatile, commercial oils (3).
Ref: 3,195.

Orthosiphon grandiflorus Bold. ex Heyne
USES: Stem, Leaf and Inflorescence: Infusion of stem-tops, leaves and flowering-tops is effective for eliminating renal calculi (kidney stones), and to remedy other kidney conditions.
Ref: 2,195.

Plectranthus amboinicus (Lour.) Spreng.
USES: Leaf: Juice of roasted leaves is drunk or rubbed with a pinch of salt on swellings and inflamed areas, and used for allergies. Boiled in a tea for colds, menstrual pains, labor pains, delayed labor and to aid expulsion of the afterbirth. Infusion for digestive drink.
CHEM: Medicinal, antibacterial and antiseptic properties of the plant have been attributed to extract components such as carvacrol, codeine, flavones, phenols, tannins and aromatic acids (3).
Ref: 2,3.

Pogostemon patchouli Pellet.
NAMES: French and FG Creole: patchouli, patchouly.
USES: Leaf: Infusion used as a convalescent bath in French Guiana.
CHEM: Oil contains azulenic sesquiterpenes, benzoic aldehyde and eugenol.
Ref: 2,4.
Scutellaria sp.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: ka-ruk-yik.
USES: Whole plant: An infusion is used to ease childbirth in French Guiana.
Ref: 4.

Thymus sp.
USES: Whole plant: An infusion is used to ease childbirth in French Guiana.
Ref: 4.

**LAURACEAE**

Aniba canelilla (Kunth) Mez (*Cryptocarya pretiosa* Martius ex Nees; *Mespilodaphne pretiosa* Nees).
USES: Stem: Bark decoction used to cure dysentery, fever and diarrhoea. In Guyana a tea is prepared from the bark, but constant drinking of it weakens the body. The Surinam Tirio rub the smoke from burned bark over the body to treat diarrhoea.
CHEM: Plant contains alkaloids (10).
NOTES: In the Rio Negro region of Brazil the aromatic bark, which has the mixed odors of cinnamon and roses, is valued as a stimulant, digestive, antispasmodic and remedy for anemia, and the seed is rasped for a dysentery treatment (10).
Ref: 7,8,9,45,190,192.

Aniba hostmanniana (Nees) Mez
USES: Leaf: Decoction or infusion in vermouth is utilized by Surinam Amerindians, Bush Negroes, gold miners and rubber tappers for diarrhoea and dysentery.
Ref: 195,227.

Aniba sp.
USES: Stem and Leaf: Decoction of crushed leaves and rasped inner bark is used as a wash to relieve swollen, aching feet by the Surinam Tirio. Leaf: Decoction is drunk by the Surinam Wayana as a tonic.
NOTES: Another undetermined species of *Aniba*, known also to the Surinam Tirio as "kah-rah-pah-nah", provides leaves which are boiled in a decoction used as a wash to treat stomachache (8).
**Cassytha filiformis** L.
USES: Whole plant: Vine is cut into several pieces by the Surinam Tirio, for a decoction used as a wash for backache. Stem: Anthelmintic to expel intestinal worms; decoction as remedy for falling hair. Ground and mixed with nutmeg for abdominal and stomach diseases; in an ointment with butter and ginger rubbed on tumors; mixed with sugar to treat headache and sore eyes.
CHEM: Contains the alkaloids laurotetanine, cassyfiline, cassythidine, cassythine and ocoteine (29,33).
Ref: 8,9.

**Chlorocardium rodiae** (Rob. Schomb.) Rohwer, Richter & van der Werff (*Ocotea rodiae* (Rob. Schomb.) Mez)
USES: Stem: Decoction of bark or crushed wood (or sometimes the fruit) is used as a febrifuge and for diarrhoea. For a bitter and tonic. Seed: In Guyana, the Pomeroon and Moruca people use a decoction of seeds to treat diarrhoea. For remedies to combat dysentery and malarial fever; an antifebrile with action resembling quinine. Source of the quinine substitute known as "Sulphate of Bibirine". Part unspecified: Used for treating malaria, by the Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.
CHEM: Stem-bark contains the alkaloid beberine, identical to buxine and pelosine, also the alkaloid nectandrine; seed contains berberic acid.
NOTES: The bark decoction is yellow, nauseatingly bitter and has a sickly odor.
Ref: 7,8,9,45,154,190,192,227,238.

**Cinnamomum zeylanicum** Blume
USES: Stem: Bark infusion is employed in French Guiana to increase dilation during childbirth. Infusion is used by Hindus in Surinam for treating coughs and colds.
Ref: 4,195,227.

**Dicypellium caryophyllaceum** (Martius) Nees
USES: Stem: Bark is pulverised in liquor and used as a stimulant and an aphrodisiac. Bark is very aromatic, with taste of pepper, used in an energizing tonic; contains aromatic essential oil, a resin, gum and tannin. Said to be a counter-poison to the root of *Passiflora quadrangularis* ("barbadine"), and to be an ingredient of curare made by Indians of the upper Amazon.
Ref: 4,154.
**Endlicheria bracteolata** (Meissn.) C.K. Allen
NAME: Surinam Tirio of Kwamala: wi.
USES: Leaf: Macerated, soaked in cold water, and squeezed into a boiling decoction as an admixture ingredient of curare made by the Surinam Tirio of Kwamala.
Ref: 194.

**Endlicheria multiflora** (Miq.) Mez vel aff.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: wung-yik.
USES: Whole plant: Hairs on this plant cause the skin to itch, and are an irritant (Guyana Patamona).
Ref: 237.

**Endlicheria** sp.
USES: Leaf: The Surinam Wayana use a decoction of leaves as a wash to treat body aches.
Ref: 8.

**Licaria camara** (Rob. Schomb.) Kostermans (*Acrodiclidium camara* Schomb.)
USES: Stem: Wood is bitter, aromatic. Fruit and Seed: Infusion used to treat colic, dysentery and diarrhoea in Guyana. Diarrhoea remedy of the Guyana Accowai and Dutch-descended Guyanese. Fruit: Dried and used against dysentery in French Guiana.
Ref: 7,9,154,190,192.

**Licaria cannella** (Meissner) Kostermans (*Acrodiclidium canella* (Meissner) Mez.; *Ayendron cannella* Meissner)
USES: Stem: Decoction of the bark is used for an aphrodisiac in French Guiana. Bark is used to treat warts, by the Guyana Patamona. CHEM: Plant contains dillapial and canellines. NOTES: An undetermined species of *Licaria* known as "kamakusa" in Guyana provides fruit which is made into an infusion to treat vomiting (16).
Ref: 2,192,227,237.

**Licaria chrysophylla** (Meissner) Kostermans (*Acrodiclidium chrysophyllum* Meissner)
NAME: French Guiana: bois de sassafras.
USES: Stem: Wood is aromatic and bitter.
**Licaria debilis** (Mez.) Kostermans  
USES: **Stem**: Bark used as an aromatic and as a stimulant in French Guiana.  
Ref: 154, 192.

**Nectandra sanguinea** Rolander ex Rottb. (*Laurus globosa* Aublet)  
USES: **Stem**: Bark used for an aromatic and stimulant in French Guiana.  
Ref: 154, 192.

**Ocotea canaliculata** (L.C. Rich.) Mez  
USES: **Part unspecified**: Used by the Guyana Carib in a bath to treat smallpox; for intermittent fever.  
Ref: 190, 192.

**Ocotea cymbarum** Kunth (*Nectandra cymbarum* (H.B.K.) Nees)  
USES: **Stem**: Contains a bitter principle used in Surinam as a diuretic, emmenagogue and tonic. Aromatic liquid from incised stem, called "huile de sassafras", resembles that of *Ocotea longifolia*.  
Fruit: Utilized by the French Guiana Palikur as an intoxicant; toxic.  
NOTES: The stem yields an ingredient used in Orinoco (Venezuela) curare. In Brazil, oil exuded from the wood is used as a substitute for gasoline illuminating oil.  
Ref: 2, 154.

**Ocotea guianensis** Aublet  
USES: **Leaf**: Leaves from young branches made into a decoction for women at childbirth, administered sitting in a bath. Leaves used in a compress to drain tumors and swollen glands in 18th century French Guiana. Leaf contains essential oil used in antiseptic cataplasms. Leaf soaked in cold water as an admixture ingredient of Surinam Tirio curare. Leaves are boiled and the water drunk as an antipyretic, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated leaves are boiled with water and used for washing the skin as a treatment for cold sweat, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated leaves are
used by pregnant women in herbal baths to facilitate easy delivery of babies, by the Guyana Patamona. **Stem**: Used to treat abscesses. **Fruit**: Oil used for rheumatism.  
Ref: 2,8,149,154,192,194,227,237.

**Ocotea longifolia** Kunth (*Ocotea opifera* Martius; *Oreodaphne opifera* (Martius) Nees)  
**NAME**: Guyana: laurel.  
**USES**: Part unspecified: Oil used for a stomachic; rubbed on painful joints as a discutient; ingested for a diuretic and diaphoretic.  
Ref: 190.

**Ocotea sp.**  
**NAME**: Guyana Patamona:ah-back-yik.  
**USES**: Leaf: Leaves are boiled, and the water used as a tonic, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**Persea americana** Miller  
**USES**: Stem: Bark used for diarrhea in NW Guyana. **Leaf**: Decoction of dried leaves used to treat hypertension (to decrease tension). Boiled with *Tripogandra serrulata* for a drink to remedy biliousness. Infusion of young leaves to treat coughs, aid digestion and decrease tension. Leaves employed in French Guiana for dysmenorrhoa. Leaves are boiled and the water drunk as an antihypertensive, by the Guyana Patamona. Used to treat biliousness, diarrhea, stomachache, hypertension, heart problems and malaria in NW Guyana. **Fruit**: Fluid from unripe fruit used to induce abortion.  
**CHEM**: Avocado oil contains steroids used for pharmaceuticals; leaf and seed contain cyanide; leaf extracts show antihypertensive activity in rats; seed extract has an erythroagglutinating property; fruit contains reductase and transferase enzymes (3).  
Ref: 3,4,147,154,195,227,237,245.

**LECITHIDACEAE**

**Bertholletia excelsa** Humb. & Bonpl. (*Bertholletia nobilis* Miers)  
**USES**: Seed: In French Guiana, the sweet oil expressed from the seed is applied to burns.  
Ref: 154,192,199.
Couratari guianensis Aublet
USES: **Stem**: Peeled bark in a cold water infusion for fevers. Inner bark rasped into cold water with bark of *Amasonia campestris*, and the infusion used as a wash for effectively remediying fevers. 
Ref: 8,192.

Couroupita guianensis Aublet
USES: **Fruit and Seed**: Fruit-pulp and seeds are ingested as a refreshant in French Guiana. 
Ref: 154,199.

Eschweilera grandiflora (Aublet) Sandwith (*Lecythis grandiflora* Aublet)
NAMES: FG Carib: canari macaque. FG Creole: marmite de singe (monkey's cooking pot).
USES: **Flower**: Infusion for ophthalmia. **Fruit**: Acidic, refreshant. **Seed**: Edible; emulsion used for infections of the urinary tract.
Ref: 149,154.

Eschweilera pedicellata (Rich.) Mori (*Eschweilera longipes* (Poiteau) Miers; *Lecythis longipes* Poiteau)
USES: **Stem**: Sap from the rasped and burned bark is squeexed onto a type of skin sore known to the Surinam Tirio as "ukogo". **Seed**: Decoction of boiled seeds is drunk as a treatment for stomachache by the Surinam Tirio. The Surinam Wayana eat the seeds to induce hunger in people who have lost their appetite. Seed is edible.
NOTES: An undetermined species of *Eschweilera* or *Lecythis* known in Guyana as "kakaralli" provides bark which is made into a decoction for a purgative to relieve bowel complaints and to treat dysentery (9).
Ref: 8,192.

Eschweilera sagotiana Miers
NAME: Guyana Patamona: pah-gai-yik.
USES: **Stem**: Bark is boiled, and the water used as an antiseptic, by the Guyana Patamona, inner bark is warmed and used as a poiltice for treating sores and hard boils, by the Guyana Patamona, Juice from macerated inner bark is used as a treatment for burns, for cuts and wounds, by the Guyana Patamona.
Eschweilera sp.
USES: Bark: Inner bark is boiled until the water becomes brown, and is then used for washing burns as an antiseptic, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark and root: Inner bark and roots are boiled, and the water used for bathing wounds to prevent infection, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Gustavia augusta L.
USES: Stem: Inner bark mixed with kaolin in cold water to remedy vomiting in infants; young leaves sometimes used instead of bark for the vomiting remedy. Stem-bark, Leaf or Fruit: Used in a plaster by the French Guiana Palikur to treat leishmaniasis.
Ref: 2,149,192,199.

Gustavia hexapetala (Aublet) J.E. Smith (Gustavia fastuosa Willd.; Pirigara hexapetala Aublet)
USES: Leaf and Fruit: Used in French Guiana as a topical remedy for liver disease.
Ref: 154,192,199.

Lecythis corrugata Poiteau (Eschweileria corrugata (Poiteau) Miers)
USES: Stem: Decoction of the bark is poured onto cuts by the Surinam Tirio in order to accelerate healing. Bark used to treat diarrhea in NW Guyana.
Ref: 8,245.

Lecythis idatimon Aublet (Eschweileria amara (Aublet) Nied.; Lecythis turbinata Berg.)
NAME: Surinam: manbarklak.
USES: Stem: Infusion of the bark is used to treat diarrhoea.
Ref: 195.

Lecythis zabucajo Aublet
NAME: Guyana Creole: monkey pot.
USES: Part unspecified: Used for treating liver problems, by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.
Ref: 238.

LOGANIACEAE

Potalia amara Aublet
USES: Stem and Leaf: Decoction is a febrifuge, which is both drunk and used for a bath. Used in a herbal tea as a sudorific for venereal diseases in French Guiana. Bitter; an emmenagogue, antispasmodic; to remedy jaundice. Leaf: Young leaves applied in a cataplasm to which carapa oil is added, for the treatment of swellings caused by pus and deep abscesses; crushed branches sometimes used for the same purpose. To remedy urethritis in French Guiana. Stem and Leaf: For syphilis; to counteract manioc (cassava-juice) poisoning.
Ref: 2,7,49,154,168.

Spigelia anthelmia L.
USES: Whole plant: Boiled and the liquid is drunk to treat hypertension and thrush. Leaf: Vermifuge; used in Surinam to repel cockroaches; anthelmintic. Sap from leaves used in Guyana to treat eye infections. Plant is very poisonous (toxic). Rhizome: For intestinal problems. Part unspecified: Used by Surinam Saramaccan Bush Negroes in a herbal bath and as an anthelmintic.
CHEM: Leaf contains the toxic alkaloid spigeline (3). Ingestion of plant may cause dimness of vision with dilated pupils, giddiness, spasms of eye and facial muscles, and convulsions; may be fatal to children. Spigeline has affinities with nicotine and lobeline and is used as a vermifuge (154).
Ref: 2,3,154,168,193,195.

Strychnos bredemeyeri (Schult.) Sprague & Sandwith (Strychnos pedunculata (A. DC.) Bentham; Strychnos schomburgkiana Klotzsch)
USES: Stem: Bark is used to make urari (curare) blowpipe poison by the Guyana Arekuna and Macushi. Bark decoction used to treat fever in Guyana.
CHEM: Contains alkaloids with a curare-like action (175).
NOTES: Curare causes death by asphyxiation, the loss of control of muscles essential in respiration. This species occurs in Guyana, Brazil, Venezuela and Trinidad (187).
Ref: 7,9,145,175,181,184,187.
Strychnos cogens  Bentham
USES:  Stem: A tonic prepared from the bark is used as an aphrodisiac and to treat leucorrhoea; bark is often used in a mixture with Doliocarpus dentatus and species of Philodendron and Lygodium. Used by the Guyana Macushi in preparation of "kumarawa" blowpipe poison, which is distinct from, and inferior to, the curare poison.
NOTES:  There is unconfirmed reportage of the use of this species in the curare of the Tikuna people of northwestern Amazonia (10). Controversial usage of this species as a curare plant by Guyana Amerindians is indicated by Schomburgk (9,145). The plant is a main ingredient of arrow poison made by the Jamamadi Indians of Brazil (180). This species occurs in Guyana, French Guiana, Brazil, Venezuela, and Bolivia (187,188).
Ref:  3,9,175,181,185,192.

Strychnos diaboli  Sandwith
USES:  Stem: In Guyana, bark is used as an aphrodisiac when mixed with Doliocarpus dentatus and species of Philodendron and Lygodium. Bark and stem are boiled for the liquid used as an aphrodisiac. Bark tonic is made for treating leucorrhoea and loss of libido.
CHEM:  Plant contains diaboline, a weak alkaloid having a mixture of the action of strychnine and curarine, but without a curare-like action (86,175). Weakly curarizing alkaloids in Strychnos diaboli include diaboline and desacetyldiaboline from Guyana plants; and desacetyldiaboline and macrophylline A from Manaus (Brazil) plants (233).
NOTES:  This species may possibly be used by the Tikuna of northwestern Amazonia as an ingredient of their curare (10). It is the principal ingredient of Mayongong curare in Brazil; Mayongong Indians call the plant "cumadua" (176). This species occurs in Guyana, Brazil and Venezuela (187).
Ref:  3,9,175,178,181,184,185,192.

Strychnos erichsonii  Rich. Schomburgk
USES:  Stem: Bark is macerated in tafia rum for an aphrodisiac by the Surinam Saramaccan. Bark used as aphrodisiac in NW Guyana. Root: Root-bark is used by Surinam forest people as a powerful aphrodisiac. Part unspecified: Ingredient of the curare made by the Surinam Wayana. Used as an aphrodisiac in French Guiana.
CHEM:  Contains numerous alkaloids, including diaboline, henningsanine, condensamine and erichsoniine. Erichsoniine seems to be neither toxic nor biologically active.
NOTES:  Schultes & Raffauf (10) give curare uses in Colombia for this species. Fanshawe (175) notes that "the total alkaloids have a convulsant, strychnine-like action; hence its use as an aphrodisiac." This species occurs in Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana, Brazil, Venezuela and Peru (187).
Strychnos glabra  
Guyana Akawaio, Arekuna, Macushi and Patamona: kumarawa. 
USES:  Root: Potent ingredient in curare arrow poison made by the French Guiana Wayapi and 
Wayana, mixed with Capsicum frutescens. 
CHEM:  Contains active alkaloids with curare-like action, which are discussed by B.A. Krukoff 
(87). Curarizing alkaloids in Strychnos glabra that act on the central nervous system have been 
isolated from Manaus (Brazil) plants (233). 
NOTES:  This species occurs in Guyana, French Guiana, Brazil, Venezuela and Peru (187). 
Ref:  2,175,183,184,185.

Strychnos guianensis  (Aublet) Martius  
USES:  Stem: Used in Guyana to make blowpipe poison. Root: In potent curare made by French 
Guiana Roucouyenne, Tirio, Wayapi and Wayana, mixed with Capsicum frutescens. Accessory 
plants used in curares of the aforementioned tribes are various species of Piperaceae. The Surinam 
Tirio prepare oerali poison (curare) for arrow-tips from the root. Outer root-bark used in "balauitu" 
arrow poison made by the Guyana Waiwai. Bark and Fruit: Mixture of fruit and bark is boiled until 
viscous, and then used as a poison, by the Guyana Patamona. 
CHEM:  Active alkaloids include guiacurarine, guianine, guiacurine, curarine and erythrocurarine 
(8,87,175,192). Curarizing alkaloids in Strychnos guianensis include guiacurarine I-VIII and 
guianine from Manaus (Brazil) plants; guiacurarine II, VI, VII and curarine from Belem (Brazil) 
plants; and guiacurarine I, II, III, VIII, IX, guiarurine I, II and erythrocurine I, II from Para (Brazil) 
plants (233). 
NOTES:  This plant is an ingredient of Amerindian arrow poisons which are made throughout its 
geographical range, including those of the Siona and Tikuna people of Colombia, the Canelo of 
Ecuador and the Mayongong of Brazil (10,16,176). This species occurs in Guyana, Surinam, French 
Guiana, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia (187,188). 
Ref:  2,8,9,14,16,154,175,181,182,184,185,194,237.

Strychnos medeola  
NAME:  Surinam Tirio of Kwamala: u-rah-re. 
USES:  Root: Surinam Tirio use the root-bark as a major component of their curare (arrow poison) 
when they are unable to locate Strychnos guianensis, which is the preferred Tirio species. 
CHEM:  Contains normacusine in the stem-bark (176). 
NOTES:  This species occurs in Surinam, French Guiana and Brazil (187). 
Ref:  8,176,194.
**Strychnos melinoniana** Baillon


**USES:** Root: Root-bark is used by Surinam forest people as a powerful aphrodisiac. Stem: A bitter aphrodisiac drink is prepared, but it acts on the central nervous system in a debilitating way. Infusion of the wood in vermouth is used as a youth restorative by Surinam Amerindians and Bush Negroes.

**CHEM:** Curarizing alkaloids in *Strychnos melinoniana* include melinonine A,B,E,F,G,I,K,L,M, mavacurine and fluorocurine from Surinam plants (233).

**NOTES:** This species occurs in Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana and Brazil (187).

**Ref:** 14,175,177,181,185,192,193,195.

**Strychnos mitscherlichii** Rich. Schomburgk


**USES:** Whole plant: Used in Guyana as an aphrodisiac when mixed with species of *Doliocarpus, Philodendron, Lygodium, Clusia grandiflora, Smilax schomburgkiana,* and *Bauhinia scala-simiae.* Stem: Used in an arrow poison by the Guyana Akawaio and Arekuna. Chips of bark are employed in an aphrodisiac tonic in Guyana. Bark and wood used as aphrodisiac in NW Guyana.

**CHEM:** As of 1954 it was reported that this plant contains at least two alkaloids, one of which has a weak curare-like action, i.e., able to paralyze the peripheral nerves (175). By 1959, research indicated that curarizing alkaloids in *Strychnos mitscherlichii* include curarine, calebassine, alkaloids B, C, D, I, fluorocurarine and fluorocurarinine from Rio Uaupes (Brazil) plants; and alkaloid D, calebassine, fluorocurine, mavacurine and curinine from Belem (Brazil) plants (233).

**NOTES:** This species occurs in Guyana, Surinam, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia (187). It, and *Strychnos toxifera,* are the main sources of "calabash curare" (3,88).

**Ref:** 3,9,175,181,184,185,186,192,245.

**Strychnos oiapocensis** Froes

**NAMES:** FG Creole: dobouldoi. Surinam Saramaccan: dobuldwa.

**USES:** Root: The French Guiana Palikur employ a root decoction for an aphrodisiac.

**NOTES:** This species occurs in Surinam, French Guiana and Brazil (187). It is not a curare plant.

**Ref:** 2,184,185.

**Strychnos tomentosa** Bentham


**USES:** Root: Mixed with *Capsicum frutescens* as a potent ingredient in curare arrow poison made by the French Guiana Wayapi and Wayana tribes.

**CHEM:** Curarizing alkaloids in *Strychnos tomentosa* from Para (Brazil) plants include alkaloid E, toxiferine, fluorocurine, curarine and fluorocurarine (233; see also 87).
NOTES: This species occurs in Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana and Brazil (187,188).
Ref: 2,175,179,181,184,185.

*Strychnos toxifera* Rob. Schomburgk
USES: Stem: Bark used to make blowpipe poison by Guyana Macushi and Wapishana. Root: Potent ingredient in curare blowpipe poison made by the Guyana Macushi and French Guiana Wayapi; the latter tribe mix it with *Capsicum frutescens*.
CHEM: Active alkaloids include toxiferines, caracurine, macusine, mavacurine and fedamazine (87). Bark contains the alkaloid curarine, which paralyses the peripheral nerves so voluntary muscles for respiration cease action and asphyxiation occurs (9,175). Curarizing alkaloids in *Strychnos toxifera* include toxiferine I-XII from Guyana plants; toxiferine I, II, IIa, IIb and C - toxiferine I from Orinoco (Venezuela) plants; and caracurine I-VIII, fedemazine and mavacurine from Venezuela plants (233).

NOTES: This species occurs in Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Panama (187).
Ref: 2,3,9,145,175,181,184,194.

*Strychnos* sp.
USES: Root and Bark: Root and bark are used for poisoning the tips of arrows, by the Guyana Patamona. Part unspecified: Used as a curare poison, by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.
Ref: 237,238.

**LOMARIOPSIDACEAE**

*Lomagramma* sp.
USES: Leaf: Juice from macerated leaves is used for treating itching, by the Patamona. Macerated leaves are used as an emollient on hard boils and abscesses to bring them to a point, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated leaves are used to treat sores, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

*Lomariopsis japurensis* (Martius) J. Smith
NAME: Surinam Tirio: we-de-ni am-bo-ta.
USES: Root: Used to treat abscesses in NW Guyana. Leaf: Decoction used as a wash for treating sprains, rheumatism, contusions and muscular pains.
Ref: 8,245.
**Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)**

**LORANTHACEAE**

**Oryctanthus florulentus** (L.C. Rich.) Urban  
**USES:** Whole plant: Pulverised and applied in a plaster around a fracture in order to reduce it, while the immobilized part of the body is bound with strips of *Gynerium sagittatum*. Plant is boiled, and the water drunk as a treatment for whooping cough, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf: Juice from macerated leaves is used as an antiseptic, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves are heated and used as an emollient, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated leaves are applied to cuts and wounds, and used as poultice for sores, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf and Stem: Leaves and stems are boiled, and the water drunk as a treatment for whooping cough, by the Guyana Patamona.  
**Ref:** 2,237.

**Phthirusa pyrifolia** (Kunth) Eichl.  
**USES:** Leaf: Used to treat malaria, sprains and thrush in NW Guyana.  
**Ref:** 245.

**Phthirusa retroflexa** (Ruiz & Pavon) Kuijt  
**NAME:** Guyana Patamona: ah-da-bek-yik.  
**USES:** Whole plant: Plant is boiled, and the water drunk as a treatment for infertility and to prevent abortion, by the Guyana Patamona.  
**Ref:** 237.

**Phthirusa stelis** (L.) Kuijt (*Phthirusa adunca* (G. Mey.) Maguire)  
**NAME:** Guyana: bird-vine.  
**USES:** Whole plant: Boiled with *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis* and *Cordia curassavica* and the liquid drunk to treat hypertension. Stem and Leaf: Decoction of aerial parts of the plant is taken with a pinch of salt to treat children's thrush and adult's leucorrhoea.  
**NOTES:** Several undetermined species of *Phthirusa* known in Guyana as "wirokarotika" provide leaf-juice to which salt is added for a children's purgative (9).  
**Ref:** 3.

**Psittacanthus lasianthus** Sandwith  
**NAME:** Guyana Patamona: yah-bau-ga-yik.  
**USES:** Leaf: Leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-malarial, by the Guyana Patamona.  
**Ref:** 237.

**Psittacanthus** spp.  
**NAMES:** French: gui. FG Creole: caca zozo.
USES: Whole plant: In French Guiana it is pulverised and applied in a plaster around a fracture in order to reduce it, and the immobilized body-part is tied with strips of *Gynerium sagittatum*. Ref: 2.

**Struthanthus dichotrianthus** Eichler
USES: Whole plant: In French Guiana it is boiled and the water drunk as an anti-hypertensive, by the Guyana Patamona. Ref: 237.

**Struthanthus syringifolius** Martius
USES: Leaf: The Guyana Wapishana use it in a tea for toothache. Cold water infusion used as a wash for treating cassava poisoning by the Guyana Wapishana.
CHEM: Fruit contains rubber, mucilage, resin and tannin (10). Ref: 8,32.

**LYCOPODIACEAE**

**Lycopodium cernua** L. Pichi Sermolli (*Lycopodium cernuum* L.)
USES: Whole plant: Decoction as a febrifuge bath; saline decoction is drunk for, or locally applied onto, the bite of venomous spiders; used in Surinam as a substitute for tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*), and to treat pain in the calf of the leg. Used by Surinam Saramaccans in a curative herbal bath. Plant is boiled, and the water drunk until the user is full; it is then vomited out as a charm for the successful hunting of savanna deer (Guyana Patamona). Plant is boiled with water and taken as a purgative, by the Guyana Patamona. Spore: Spore powder, although said to be poisonous, is used in Surinam in the rolling of pills.
CHEM: Contains lysine-derived alkaloids, nicotine. Ref: 2,193,195,237.

**LYGODIACEAE**

**Lygodium micans** J.W. Sturm
USES: Leaf and Stem: Macerated leaves and stems are used as an anti-pruritic and for treating eczema, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves and stems are boiled with water, allowed to cool, then
drunk as an emetic, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves and stems are boiled with water and used for washing the skin as a treatment for chicken pox, and a pinch of table salt added to the water, which is used as a treatment for measles, by the Guyana Patamona. **Leaf**: Macerated leaves are used to remedy severe diarrhea in Guyana (Archer 2286 (US), coll. Aruka River, NorthWest District, Guyana). Ref: 237.

**Lygodium volubile** Swartz

USES: **Leaf**: Used for back pain and thrush in NW Guyana. Ref: 245.

**LYTHRACEAE**

**Cuphea carthagenensis** (Jacq.) Macbr.


USES: **Stem and Leaf**: Macerated in rum and rubbed onto sprains. **Leaf**: Infusion used to treat colds and chills.

CHEM: Contains flavone pigments. Ref: 2,4.

**Lawsonia inermis** L.


USES: **Stem**: Bark used as an emmenagogue in French Guiana. **Leaf**: Surinam Javans make a poultice from the leaf and apply it to cracks between the toes. In Surinam, a water infusion of the leaves mixed with tobacco and salt is used for a mouthwash. Leaf cooked in water and used for washing wounds. In French Guiana, employed to treat wounds, dartre, and possibly leprosy.

NOTES: Plant introduced from Arabia to French Guiana. Ref: 154,195.

**MAGNOLIACEAE**

**Liriodendron tulipifera** L.


USES: **Root**: Bark is bitter, aromatic, febrifuge. **Leaf**: Bruised leaves used to treat cephalalgia.

CHEM: Root-bark contains liriodendrin in the bitter resin, and the alkaloid tulipiferin.

MALPIGHIACEAE

**Banisteriopsis lucida** (L.C. Rich.) Small
USES: Leaf: Leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as an antibacterial and as an anti-viral, by the Guyana Patamona. Whole plant: Plant is boiled with water and drunk as an antipyretic and treatment for colds, by the Guyana Patamona. Plant is boiled, and the water used for a bath to treat cold sweat, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Byrsonima aerugo** Sagot
NAME: Guyana Creole: sour pear.
USES: Part unspecified: Used for treating snakebites by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.
Ref: 190,191,192.

**Byrsonima aerugo** Sagot var. *occidentalis* (Niedenzu) Kostermans
USES: Part unspecified: Effective cure for "buck sick"; cure for poisonous snakebite.
Ref: 190,191,192.

**Byrsonima concinna** Benth.
USES: Bark: Inner bark is scraped, boiled and the water drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark is used for tanning leather, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf: Brown powder from the back surface of the leaf is applied to the umbilical cord of babies at birth, as an anti-microbial to prevent infection, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Byrsonima coriacea** (Sw.) Kunth
USES: Leaf: Infusion used as an astringent.
Ref: 4,226.

**Byrsonima crassifolia** (L.) Kunth (*Byrsonima mourelia* Loudon; *Malpighia crassifolia* L.)

USES: Whole plant: Infusion to treat rattlesnake bites. Bark: Inner bark is boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-diarrheal or as an anti-dysenteric, and as a treatment for inflammation, by the Guyana Patamona. Stem: Bark decoction for an antidote to rattlesnake bites, and as a febrifuge and purgative. Inner bark pounded for a poultice or liquid applied to wounds and abrasions by Guyana Macushi and Wapishana. Bark infusion for dysentery, diarrhoea and bronchial inflammations. Leaf: To clean and soothe ulcers. Brown powder from the undersurface of the leaf is applied onto the cut end of the umbilical cord to prevent infection, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves are boiled and the water drunk as medication for hypertension, by the Guyana Patamona.

CHEM: Similar to the chemical constituents of *Byrsonima verbascifolia*.

Ref: 2,7,8,9,32,149,154,192,226,237.

**Byrsonima** cf. *crassifolia* (L.) Kunth


USES: Stem and Leaf: Decoction of bark and leaves used as a wash for treating children's fevers. Sap from bark and leaves is inserted into orifice of penis by Surinam Tirio as a remedy for gonorrhoea.

Ref: 8.

**Byrsonima pachypoda** W.R. Anderson


USES: Bark: Bark is boiled and the water allowed to cool, then drunk as an anti-malarial, by the Guyana Patamona. Inner bark is boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-diarrheal, or as an anti-dysenteric for bloody dysentery, by the Guyana Patamona. Inner bark is boiled, and the water drunk as a medicament for colds and for coughing, by the Patamona.

Ref: 237.

**Byrsonima spicata** (Cav.) DC. (*Byrsonima coriacea* (Sw.) Kunth var. *spicata* (Cav.) Niedenzu)


USES: Stem: Bark decoction used to treat rattlesnake bites, and as a febrifuge and purgative. Bark is boiled with water and drunk as an anti-diarrheal and anti-dysenteric, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruit: Acid and astringent, containing much tannin, used to remedy dysentery.

Ref: 3,154,192,237.

**Byrsonima verbascifolia** (L.) DC. (*Malpighia verbascifolia* L.)


USES: Whole plant: Plant is boiled with water, and drunk until the drinker is saturated, then vomited out as a “bena” or charm for deer hunting, by the Guyana Patamona. Root: Bark of the root is scraped and boiled, the liquid is drunk as an anti-malarial, by the Guyana Patamona. Roots are
boiled and the water drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona. Root and Stem: In an astringent decoction to clean ulcers and wounds. Stem: Bark is febrifuge; wood is astringent and vulnerary. Leaf: Used in French Guiana to clean and soothe the skin. Leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-menorrhagic of as a treatment for cramps during the menstrual cycle, by the Guyana Paramona.
CHEM: Leaf contains various flavonoids, saponins and terpenes (89,90).
Ref: 2,149,154,192,237.

**Malpighia punicifolia** L.
USES: Stem: Bark exudes a gum recommended for a pectoral. Fruit: Very rich in vitamin C.
Ref: 2,154,195,226.

**Stigmaphyllon bannisterioides** (L.) C. Anderson (**Brachypteris ovata** (Cav.) Small)
USES: Whole plant: Plant is boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-icteric, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Stigmaphyllon convolvulifolium** A. Jussieu
USES: Tuber: In Surinam, juice expressed from the tuber is used for eyedrops. Leaf: Crushed in a decoction or maceration used by French Guiana Wayapi to control the vomiting accompanying malaria.
CHEM: Root contains the iridoid monotropeine (91).
Ref: 2,195,226.

**Stigmaphyllon palmatum** (Cav.) A. Jussieu (**Stigmagphyllon sagittatum** A. Jussieu)
NAMES: FG Creole: gname chapelle, liane bef.
USES: Tuber: Grated tuber mixed in hot water for a refreshing drink.
CHEM: Leaf contains three iridoids: galioside, geniposidic acid and monotropeine (92).
Ref: 2.

**Stigmaphyllon sinuatum** (DC.) A. Jussieu (**Stigmaphyllon fulgens** (Lam.) A. Jussieu; **Stigmaphyllon hypoleucum** Miq.; **Stigmaphyllon martianum** A. Jussieu)
USES: Whole plant: Crushed in a decoction which is drunk for treating blood in the stools, or used as a wash. Crushed and boiled in a decoction to treat stingray wounds. Macerated plant is boiled
with water and used as an herbal bath to reduce high fevers, for washing the skin as a treatment for cold-fever and for cold sweat, by the Guyana Patamona. **Root:** Macerated roots in water are used for washing the skin as an antipyretic, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated roots are used as an ointment for burning skin, by the Guyana Patamona. **Root and Leaf:** Roots and leaves are boiled and the water drunk as a treatment for coughs, by the Guyana Patamona. Used for swelling and to treat heart problems in NW Guyana. **Stem:** Watery sap from cut stem used for treating sore eyes in NW Guyana. **Leaf:** In compress on stingray wounds; leaf decoction drunk to prevent vomiting. Employed as abortive, to ease birth, for fever, headache, burns and skin fungi in NW Guyana. Leaves are soaked in water and used as an herbal bath as an analgesic for fevers, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated leaves are soaked in cold water, and the water drunk as an anti-asthmatic, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as a treatment for colds, as an antimalarial or to purify the blood, by the Guyana Patamona. **Stem and Leaf:** Stems and leaves are ground, boiled, and the water used for a herbal bath for washing the skin to alleviate a high fever, by the Guyana Patamona. **Seed:** Swallowed as a contraceptive by Guyana Amerindians, probably Arawak. Swallowed as a contraceptive by the Guyana Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.

**CHEM:** Stem and leaf contain sapogenins (10).

**Ref:** 3,8,9,192,226,245,237,238.

**Tetrapterys discolor** (G. Mey.) DC.
**NAME:** FG Wayapi: mitakulusili.
**USES:** Leaf: As a substitute for *Stigmaphyllon sinuatum*.

**Ref:** 2.

**MALVACEAE**

**Abelmoschus esculentus** (L.) Moench (*Hibiscus esculentus* L.)
**USES:** Leaf: Crushed in water for treating disturbances of childbirth, and as an emollient mucilage. Flower: Infusion to treat phlegm in mucous membranes of chest. Fruit: Juice of young fruit used to treat chest colds, and as eyedrops. Fruit crushed with the young leaves and used to wash hair and to treat dandruff. Young fruit in a remedy placed on bloody ulcers. Decoction for problems of womb or uterus. Boiled in milk for treating rheumatism. Pulp for sore eyes. Fruit was eaten and washed down with gully root (*Petiveria alliacea*) as an abortifacient by enslaved Guyanese women in former times.

**Ref:** 3,154,168,190,195.

**Abelmoschus moschatus** Medic. (*Hibiscus abelmoschus* L.; *Hibiscus moschatus* Salisb.)
USES: Root: Grated, mixed with tallow, and applied as an unguent on infected nail-pricks and thorn-pricks; macerated in rum as a rub for fever. Leaf: In a cataplasm applied to forehead to control violent headache; febrifuge; anti-inflammatory; decoction of leaves and green fruit in a bath to ease childbirth. Seed: Stimulant and antispasmodic properties are useful in treating snakebite. Crushed seeds in oil are rubbed on a fever patient as a sudorific. Musk-scented seeds are used as a masticatory for dental cavities and bad breath. Seed infusion as a cephalic, stomachic and antispasmodic. Part unspecified: For inducing itch.

CHEM: Seed-oil contains farnesol, ambrettolic acid, and the lactone ambrettolide. Petals contain the flavonol cannabiscitrine and cyanidine glycoside.

Ref: 2,154,190,195,215.

Gossypium barbadense L. (Gossypium peruvianum Cav.)


USES: Root: Bark used for difficult or irregular menstruation; in a tea for vomiting. Pulverised roots used for an abortifacient. Stem and Leaf: Has the effect of a *Secale* histamine. Stem: Stem-bark used in a preparation to strengthen the womb. Leaf: Macerated in oil as a cataplasm to soothe an overheated person; in a remedy which is wrapped in *Ischnosiphon arouma* leaf to expel microfilarial worms. Infusion of leaf-juice for skin rash, children's cramps, and to alleviate urine retention. Leaves of red cotton boiled for treating high blood pressure, abdominal cramps and pain; menstrual problems, painful ovaries, difficult expulsion of afterbirth. Juice from macerated leaves is used as an anti-pruritic, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from macerated leaves is warmed and used as a medicament for “bush yaws”, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruit: Warmed over an open fire and the liquid dropped into the ear to remedy earache. Flower: Flower buds are used as an auricular analgesic by the French Guiana Wayapi. Seed: Seeds are crushed, and the juice given to babies as a treatment for thrush, by the Guyana Patamona. Cotton fibers are used for a tampon on wounds; infusion for pectoral. Used to treat diarrhea, as laxative, and for thrush in NW Guyana.

CHEM: Pressed cotton cake contains gossypol, which is used clinically, e.g., in China, as a male antifertility agent (contraceptive). Gossypol is a toxic polyphenolic bisesquiterpene which may have antifertility and antiviral properties (3,166).

Ref: 2,154,173,193,195,215,237,245.

Gossypium brasiliense Macfadyen


USES: Whole plant: Plant is boiled and the water drunk as an analgesic, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf: Leaves are boiled and the water used as an anti-pyretic and for herbal baths, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf and Flower: Leaves and flowers are boiled, an the water drunk as an anti-bacterial, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated flowers and leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as a treatment for liver disorders, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruit: Juice from warmed, young fruits is used as drops for ear infections and earache, by the Guyana Patamona.

NOTE: A neotropical species not yet recorded in taxonomic literature from the Guianas.

Ref: 237.
Gossypium herbaceum L.
NAME: French Guiana: coton herbace.
USES: Root: Supposedly an abortifacient which causes uterine contractions similar to the action of rye ergot. An excellent febrifuge. Roots used for amenorrhoea and puerperal metrorrhagia. Stem: Shoots are employed in a diuretic tisane. Seed: To augment milk of nursing mothers; in fumigations for indolent ulcers. Seeds are reputedly poisonous to hogs.
Ref: 154.

Gossypium aff. hirsutum L.
NAME: Surinam Tirio: mah-lu.
USES: Leaf: The Surinam Tirio boil the leaves and apply them to children's skin rashes.
CHEM: Fruit of Gossypium hirsutum contains the alkaloid 5-hydroxytryptamine (33).
Ref: 8,173.

Gossypium spp.
NAMES: Guyana: black cotton, buck-cotton, cotton, cotton-bush.
USES: Leaf: Used to treat backache when boiled with Vismia sp. and Sparganophorus sparganophora. Juice of leaves and young unopened fruit-pods is mixed with salt to treat thrush, gastroenteritis and dysentery. Leaves decocted with Sparganophorus sparganophora for thrush, gastroenteritis and dysentery. Young leaves and coconut oil are applied to sores and thrush. Juice of roasted young buds is put into the ear for an earache remedy.
Ref: 3.

Hibiscus bifurcatus Cav.
USES: Stem-bark and Root: Decoction used for an antidiarrhoeic by the French Guiana Wayapi. Leaf and Flower: Macerated in water for a refreshing drink to soothe abdominal complaints. Leaf: Tea used to treat colds in Surinam. Used for colds and coughs in NW Guyana.
Ref: 2,16,215,245.

Hibiscus esculentus L. (Abelmoschus esculentus (L.) Moench)
USES: Leaf: Used for dandruff and to treat stingray punctures in NW Guyana. Fruit: Used for sore eyes and to ease birth in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

Hibiscus mutabilis L.
USES: Leaf: In an emollient tisane.
NOTES: Plant introduced from China to French Guiana.
**Hibiscus rosa-sinensis** L.

**USES:** Leaf: Applied onto various swellings. Used to treat abscesses and to induce vomiting in NW Guyana. Flower: Boiled and the extract used to treat delayed menses and as an abortifacient in Guyana. In French Guiana, the double-flowered cultivar is preferentially used in a pectoral syrup for broncho-pulmonary disorders. Flowers in an infusion for an antitussive and gripe when mixed with leaves of *Lantana camara*, *Justicia pectoralis*, *Macfadyena unguis-cati*, *Ocimum micranthum* and tallow. Used for whooping cough in NW Guyana.

**CHEM:** Red pigments in flower include cyanidin glycosides. Benzene extract of flower shows significant anti-implantation activity in rats (3).

**Ref:** 2,3,4,195,245.

**Hibiscus sabdariffa** L.

**USES:** Root: Bitter, tonic, aperitive. Stem: Sap used for an antiscorbutic. Leaf: Infusion is refreshing and hypotensive. Flower: Succulent calyx is crushed to prepare a drink to treat pulmonary conditions in French Guiana. Antiscorbutic syrup is made from the fruit in French Guiana.

**CHEM:** Calyx contains citric and malic acids.

**Ref:** 2,154,168,173,215.

**Hibiscus tiliaceus** L.

**USES:** Leaf: In Surinam, leaves are mixed with water and applied to the head to cool it and promote hair growth in typhus patients. Decoction used for treating urinary problems. Leaf has emollient mucilage used as a skin softener in French Guiana.

**Ref:** 154,195,215.

**Malachra alceifolia** Jacq.

**USES:** Leaf: Used in treatment of sores in NW Guyana.

**Ref:** 245.

**Malvastrum coromandelianum** (L.) Garcke (*Malva ulmifolia* Balb. ex DC.; *Malvastrum tricuspidatum* (Aiton fil.) A. Gray)

**NAME:** French Guiana: ouade-ouade.

**USES:** Part unspecified: Mucilaginous, refreshing. Used in French Guiana as an emollient.
Malvastrum spicatum (L.) A. Gray (*Malva spicata* L.)
USES: Whole plant: Emollient, detersive, mucilaginous.
Ref: 154,168.

Malvaviscus arboreus Cav.
USES: Stem: Liniment made from the base of the plant is used for dressing burns.
Ref: 154,168.

Pavonia cf. flavispina Miq.
USES: Whole plant: The French Guiana Wayapi use smoke from the burning plant to dry the ulcers of leishmaniasis.
Ref: 2.

Pavonia fruticosa (Mill.) Fawc. & Rendle
USES: Whole plant: Macerated plant in water is used for an herbal bath, by the Guyana Patamona. Plant is boiled and the water drunk as an anti-pyretic or used for washing the skin as a treatment for chickenpox or measles, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf: Macerated leaves in water are used for treating fevers, for washing the skin as treatment for cold sweat or for an herbal bath, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from macerated leaves is used for treating eczema, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Sida acuta Burm. fil.
USES: Whole plant: Decoction for febrifuge. Ground and mixed with soft grease and sugar for a poultice applied to soften abscesses and release pus. Leaf: Decoction to bathe wounds; in a preparation for dysentery; infusion is diuretic; cataplasm for headache. Juice mixed with vinegar for an anti-inflammatory and digestive remedy. Macerated in water for hair conditioner and as a shampoo for flaky skin.
CHEM: Root contains asparagine. Leaf contains mucilage and saponins. The alkaloid cryptolepine shows hypotensive and antimicrobial action (3).
Ref: 2,3.

Sida cordifolia L.
USES: Whole plant: Plant is boiled, and the water used as an herbal bath of for washing the skin as an anti-pruritic, as an anti-pyretic of for chickenpox and measles, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf: Leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-pyretic, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Sida glomerata** Cav.
USES: Same uses as those given for *Sida acuta*.
Ref: 2.

**Sida rhombifolia** L.
USES: Same uses as those given for *Sida acuta*. Whole plant: In NW Guyana, whole plant used for kidney problems, menstruation, and to clean womb and tubes.
CHEM: Contains cryptolepine, ephedrine and vasicine (3).
Ref: 2,3,245.

**Sidastrum quinquenervium** (Duch. ex Triana & Planch.) E.G. Baker (*Sida guianensis* Schum.)
USES: Same uses as given for *Sida acuta*.
CHEM: Contains quinazolines and carboxyl tryptamines.
Ref: 2.

**Thespesia populnea** (L.) Solander ex Correa
USES: Leaf and Fruit: Mixed in a preparation for headache and scabies or itches.
Ref: 195.

**Urena lobata** L.
NAME: Guyana: wild sorrel.
USES: Whole plant: Used to treat “lining cold” (puerperal fever) in NW Guyana. Flower: Employed in French Guiana in a gargle used to remedy angina and aphthae. Emollient. In Guyana, boiled to make a tea used to remedy urinary tract problems, morning sickness and colds.
Ref: 154,234,245.

MARANTACEAE

**Calathea cf. comosa** (L. fil.) Lindley
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

NAME: Surinam Tirio: po-po.
USES: Leaf: The Surinam Tirio boil the leaves in a decoction used as a wash for treating gonorrhoea.
Ref: 8.

**Calathea cyclophora** Baker
USES: Stem: Sap used for sore eyes and to treat colds and coughs in NW Guyana. Leaf: Leaves and leaf-juice used to treat burns in Guyana. Used for burns in NW Guyana.
NOTES: A decoction of the underground parts of the plant is drunk by the Kubeo people of northwestern Amazonia to counteract the effects of snakebite (10). An undetermined species, very similar to *Calathea cyclophora*, is also known as "warimbo" in Surinam Sranan, and as "po-po" to the Surinam Tirio, who use a decoction of its boiled leaves to wash machete cuts (8).
Ref: 8,9,212,245.

**Calathea elliptica** (Roscoe) K. Schumann
NAMES: Surinam: bastard paloeloe, kleine pagara wiwirie, pagara wiwirie.
USES: Rhizome: Infusion for a febrifuge and vermifuge in French Guiana.
NOTES: An undetermined species similar to *Calathea elliptica*, known in Surinam Sranan as "pagara wiwiri" and to the Surinam Tirio as "wah-ru-mah", provides a leaf-liquid administered by the Surinam Tirio to children for the prevention of nocturnal bed-wetting (8).
Ref: 4,212.

**Calathea spp.**
USES: Whole plant: Crushed and rubbed on abdomen to treat stomachache. Leaf: Sap of crushed young leaves is dripped into the eyes to treat eye pain.
Ref: 8.

**Ischnosiphon arouma** (Aublet) Koern. (*Maranta arouma* Aublet)
USES: Leaf and Stem: Juice is caustic, vesicant. Seed: Oil used for a hair cosmetic in Cayenne, French Guiana. Rhizome: Contains an alimentary starch.
Ref: 154,192,212.

**Ischnosiphon foliosus** Gleason
USES: Leaf: Leaves used to treat warts as well as wounds and cuts in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.
Ischnosiphon sp.
USES: Leaf: Crushed in a decoction which is both drunk, and used as a wash, for the condition known to the Surinam Tirio as "akuruku", in which severe aches and/or cramps in the side are experienced when inhaling. Infusion used as wash by Surinam Wayana to relieve body aches thought to be caused by evil curse.
Ref: 8.

Maranta arundinacea L.
USES: Tuber: Ground tuber yields farina for a cataplasm and to calm upset stomach. Roasted as a treatment for intermittent fever in Guyana and French Guiana. In a paste ingested to control diarrhoea. Tuber or rhizome yields arrowroot meal, a nourishing, easily digestible food which is also used by Surinam Amerindians as a baby-powder.
Ref: 2,7,154,193,195,212.

Maranta ruiziana Koern.
NAMES: FG Palikur: toloma. FG Wayapi: alapalu.
USES: Tuber: Grated in cold water to make a fortifying bath for nursing infants. Porridge made from the starchy tuber is used to prevent diarrhoea in nursing infants.
Ref: 2.

Maranta sp.
NAME: Surinam: koetjake taja.
USES: Part unspecified: To relieve nervous conditions.
Ref: 193.

Monotagma spicatum (Aublet) Macbr. (Monotagma parkeri (Roscoe) Schumann)
USES: Whole plant: The Guyana Arawak steep the entire plant and make a decoction given to mothers after childbirth [Archer 2522, collected 1934, Guyana (US)]. Root and Leaf: Decoction used to induce sweat and as an emetic.
Ref: 9,192,212.

Myrosma cannifolia L.fil.
NAMES: FG Palikur: bakimni anagl, muweu.
USES: **Rhizome:** In a preparation made by the French Guiana Wayapi for the anorexic or convalescent child. Juice of rhizome given to women of the French Guiana Palikur in order to promote conception in those who are late to have a child.
Ref: 2.

**MARCGRAVIACEAE**

**Marcgravia coriacea** Vahl
USES: **Stem:** Bark decoction drunk to treat centipede stings by Surinam Tirio. **Stem and Leaf:** Cold water infusion drunk by the Surinam Wayana to relax severely frightened persons after encountering dangerous animals. Sap used for sore eyes in NW Guyana. **Leaf:** Burned and the ashes rubbed on centipede stings by the Surinam Tirio. **Part unspecified:** Ingredient of the curare (called "kah-mah-ne") made by the Surinam Tirio of Tepoe.
Ref: 8,192,194,199,245.

**Norantea guianensis** Aublet
USES: **Stem:** Bark is boiled, and the water used as an antiseptic, by the Guyana Patamona. Decoction of inner bark used to cleanse ulcerous sores and cuts. Water from cut stem and leaves used in a cold water infusion for a wash to treat fevers by the Surinam Tirio. **Wood:** Used to stop vomiting and for diarrhea in NW Guyana. **Part unspecified:** Used for treating ulcers and sores, by Amerindians at Kurkupukari, Guyana.
CHEM: Flower contains flavonoid glycosides (10).
Ref: 8,9,245, 237,238.

**Souroubea guianensis** Aublet
USES: **Whole plant:** Used in the treatment of venereal disease in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

**MAYACACEAE**

**Mayaca longipes** Martius ex Seubert
USES: **Stem:** Sap-filled stems are rubbed on a painful forehead by the French Guiana Wayapi to alleviate headaches.
MELASTOMATACEAE

Aciotis annua (DC.) Triana
Ref: 245.

Aciotis fragilis (DC.) Cogn.
NAMES: Surinam Saramaccan Bush Negro: be mindja wi.
USES: Part unspecified: Used in a tea drunk for urinary problems.
Ref: 193.

Aciotis purpurascens (Aublet) Triana
Ref: 245.

Aciotis spp.
NAME: Surinam Tirio: uh-kuh-pu-ru.
USES: Leaf: Warmed above a fire and then placed over the eyes as a warm compress to relieve eye pain. Small amount of leaf decoction drunk as cough remedy. Cold water infusion drunk as treatment for fevers.
NOTES: The three uses of leaves given above refer to three undetermined species of Aciotis used by the Surinam Tirio. In addition, they recognize a species known as "to-ko-ro po-moy" which provides leaves that are mixed in water for a liquid dripped into wounds to hasten healing (8).
Ref: 8.

Bellucia grossularioides (L.) Triana
USES: Leaf: The French Guiana Wayapi use the leaves in an emollient decoction with leaves of Capsicum frutescens and Omphalea diandra to soothe the furuncles, and to prevent the return of furuncles.
Ref: 2,192,204.

Bellucia pentamera Naud.
USES: Bark: Juice from the bark is given to babies as a treatment for thrush, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**Clidemia dentata** D. Don  
NAMES: FG Creole: radier macaque, raguet macaque.  
USES: Whole plant: Astringent, for diarrhoea, dysentery. Leaf: In a decoction to cicatrize old wounds; infusion is antidysenteric and antispasmodic. Leaves macerated in cold water for a woman's antiseptic genital bath to remedy haemorrhaging. Dried, pulverized and used to cure old, obstinate sores and injuries.  
Ref: 2,154.

**Clidemia hirta** (L.) D. Don  
NAME: FG Creole: radie-macaque.  
USES: Stem: The French Guiana Palikur use leafy branches in a decoction drunk by women having too copious menses. Leaf: In a decoction to cicatrize old wounds; infusion is antidysenteric and antispasmodic; macerated in cold water for a woman's antiseptic genital bath to remedy haemorrhaging. Infusion used to treat stomachache and as an enema in French Guiana.  
Ref: 2,4.

**Clidemia hirta** (L.) D. Don var. **elegans** (Aublet) Grisebach  
USES: Same uses as indicated for **Clidemia hirta** in French Guiana.  
Ref: 149,154,204.

**Clidemia japurensis** DC.  
USES: Leaf: Used in the treatment of sores in NW Guyana.  
Ref: 245.

**Ernestia glandulosa** Gleason  
USES: Fruit: Fruits are chewed as a medicament for coughing, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**Henriettea succosa** (Aublet) DC. (**Melastoma succosa** Aublet)  
USES: Stem: Bark used in a decoction for washing and cicatrizing ulcers and sores. Leaf: Decoction as a vulnerary and astringent for washing wounds and persistent ulcers.  
Ref: 149,154,192,217.
**Leandra agrestis** (Aublet) Raddi (*Melastoma agrestis* Aublet; *Miconia agrestis* (Aublet) Baillon)

NAME: French Guiana: melastome herisse.

USES: **Fruit:** For remedying biliousness.

Ref: 149,154,168.

**Leandra** sp.


USES: **Stem:** Bark rasped in a cold water infusion used as a wash to treat uncontrollable sweating and insomnia by the Surinam Akuriyo. **Stem and Leaf:** Bark is rasped and mixed with leaves for a cold water infusion, which is used as a wash by the Surinam Wayana to treat gooseflesh and a feeling of cold skin.

Ref: 8.

**Loreya arborescens** (Aublet) DC. (*Melastoma arborescens* Aublet)

NAME: French Guiana: mele (fruit).

USES: **Leaf:** Infusion used to wash ulcers; a desirable bitter.

Ref: 149,154.

**Loreya mespiloides** Miq.

NAME: Guyana Patamona: ah-pang-yik.

USES: **Bark:** Juice from the bark is used as an anti-infective agent on babies’ umbilical cord, by the Guyana Patamona. **Bark and Leaf:** Juice from macerated bark and leaves is used as an anti-bacterial, by the Guyana Patamona. **Leaf:** Leaves are used as bedding for bed-wetters, by the Guyana Patamona.

Ref: 237.

**Miconia alata** (Aublet) DC. (*Melastoma alata* Aublet)

NAME: Guyana Akawaio: kunawaru.

USES: **Stem:** Bark decoction used in Guyana to treat ulcers and skin eruptions. **Leaf:** Decoction used for washing old, malign ulcers ("malingres") in French Guiana. **Fruit:** Fruits are chewed as a medicament for coughing, by the Guyana Patamona.

Ref: 7,149,154,192,237.

**Miconia longispicata** Triana

NAME: Surinam Tirio: she-koi-muh.

USES: **Leaf:** Cold water infusion or decoction used as a wash to treat fever and headache.

Ref: 8.

**Miconia mirabilis** (Aublet) L.O. Williams (*Fothergilla mirabilis* Aublet)
USES: Leaf: Leaf-juice is used on the bites of certain fish in French Guiana.
Ref: 149,154.

*Miconia prasina* (Swartz) DC. (*Melastoma laevigata* Aublet)
Surinam Carib: konorrepie, piritjo.
USES: Leaf: In French Guiana, crushed leaves are applied to wounds caused by spines of certain fish.
Ref: 8,149,154,192,204.

*Miconia racemosa* (Aublet) DC. (*Melastoma racemosa* Aublet)
USES: Leaf: In a decoction to cicatrize old wounds; infusion is antidysenteric, antispasmodic and used to clean sores; macerated in cold water for an antiseptic genital bath to remedy haemorrhaging; pomade of cooked leaves used as a dressing. Detersive, astringent.
Ref: 2,4,168,192.

*Miconia tomentosa* (L.C. Rich.) D. Don ex DC.
USES: Stem: Decoction of wood for an emetic. Stem and Leaf: Leaves and bark mixed in water and rubbed into hair to treat dandruff and scalp itch by the Surinam Tirio. Leaf: Same use as given for Stem and Leaf, but without adding stem-bark.
NOTES: An undetermined species of *Miconia* known to the Surinam Tirio as "sha-u-rah" provides leaves used as a wash for children suffering from fevers believed induced by magical means (8).
Ref: 8,16,192,204.

*Mouriri grandiflora* DC.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: tap-reng-yeng-yik.
USES: Leaf: Leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as a treatment for swollen stomach, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

*Mouriri huberi* Cogn.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: jah-gali-yik.
USES: Fruit: Fruits are used for making a tonic, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

*Mouriri* sp.
USES: Bark: Inner bark is warmed and used as a treatment for muscular aches and pains, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237

Rhynchanthera grandiflora (Aublet) DC. (Melastoma grandiflora Aublet)
USES: Stem and Leaf: Vulnerary. Leaf: Infusion to soothe bronchial inflammation. Leaf and Flower: In a cough syrup for adults. Flower: One flower used in a cough syrup for nursing infants. Bechic for excess perspiration; prepared in a pectoral syrup. Flowers in a tisane for treating bronchitis and pneumonia.
Ref: 2,149,154,168,192.

Tibouchina aspera Aublet
USES: Leaf and Flower: Infusion in a tea for chest pain and dry cough.
Ref: 149,154.

MELIACEAE

Azadirachta indica A. Juss. (Melia azadirachta L.; not to be confused with Melia azedarach L.)
USES: Stem: Bark decoction for malarial fever. Stem, Leaf and Flower: Decoction used as an abortifacient. Leaf: Infusion to combat fever and intestinal worms; decoction as a bitter tonic for diabetes and jaundice; leaves used in a bath for measles; leaves are spread on a patient's bed to relieve itching. Seed: In Surinam, seed-oil is used by Hindus against scabies and other skin diseases.
CHEM: Seed-oil produces hypoglycemic activity in rats; leaf extracts cause hypotensive activity and reduce fertility of male mice, and also show possible antimicrobial activity. Contains nimocol, a tetranotriterpenoid (3,12,93,94,95).
Ref: 3,12,195.

Carapa guianensis Aublet
USES: Stem: Bark is macerated, left overnight in water and used for washing the skin as a medicament for chicken pox or for measles, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from macerated bark is used for treating eczema, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark contains tannin and is bitter, febrifuge.
Bark decoction used to dress ulcers, cure diarrhoea, and to relieve stomachache and rheumatism. In NW Guyana, bark used for diarrhea, malaria, burns, sores, stomachache, and wounds/cuts. **Leaf:** Decoction for washing wounds and persistent ulcers. **Fruit:** Oil extracted from fruit is used to treat eczema, sore stomach, a hacking cough, bronchial tract discomforts, lung trouble and running sores. Oil used three times daily for painful piles. Oil is rubbed on dogs with mange and ground itch, and on fowl with yaws. Drop of oil and a drop of red lavender given for children's thrush. Guyana Amerindians use the oil on skin for a mosquito repellent, skin softener, to prevent colds and excess perspiration, and for glossy, strong hair.

**Fruit:** Grated nut is mixed with palm oil and used as an analgesic for muscular aches and pain, as an anti-fungal, as a treatment for dry skin, for sores, for eczema, for measles or for chicken pox, by the Guyana Patamona. Grated nut is mixed with hot water, and drunk as an anti-dysenteric, by the Guyana Patamona. It is boiled, and drunk as an anti-menorrhagic during the menstrual cycle, by the Guyana Patamona. Grated nut is soaked overnight and drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona. It is soaked overnight or boiled, and the water drunk as an antimalarial, by the Guyana Patamona.

**Seed:** Yields carapa oil (krapa-olie) used against sand fleas, sika (*Tunga penetrans*) and other biting insects. The FG Galibi mix the oil with *Bixa orellana* paste and apply it to the hair and skin to repel mosquitoes and sand fleas. Seed-oil mixed as a solvent with *Bixa orellana* paste for an insect, tick and louse repellent which is soothing and anti-inflammatory on itches. Seed-oil applied onto painful stomach; used to reduce pus-filled abscesses; rubbed by women as a body oil and hair oil (to stimulate hair growth); in Guyana, "crab oil" applied to children to prevent mosquito bites; in Surinam, oil spread on feet to repel sand fleas. Seed-oil for a skin lotion, especially for children with thrush and dried, cracked skin, and to treat pain, swelling and itching. Seeds are ground and mixed with palm oil, and used as an ointment for treating genital herpes, for treating sores, and for treating itching, by the Guyana Patamona. Seeds are ground, mixed with palm oil, and used as an ointment for treating genital herpes, for treating sores, and for treating itching, by the Guyana Patamona. Seeds are ground, oil is extracted and used as an ointment to treat swelling, such as caused by mumps, by the Guyana Patamona. In NW Guyana, seeds are used for treating coughs and colds, wounds and cuts, sores, groin ruptures, hemorrhoids, insect bites, malaria, thrush and whooping cough. **Part unspecified:** Used as soap and for treating bites, diarrhea and rhumatism, by Amerindians at Kurupukati, Guyana.

**CHEM:** Bark contains carapine, a bitter principle soluble in alcohol and ether, insoluble in water (154). Carapa oil contains palmitic, stearic, arachidic, oleic, linoleic and linolenic acids. Seed contains andirobin and 7-desacetoxy-7-ketogedunin, Heartwood contains 11 B-acetoxycedunin and 6A, 11 B-diacetoxycedunin (10,44).

**NOTES:** An undetermined species of *Carapa* provides bark which is utilized by the Surinam Akuriyo to treat poisonous snake bites (8).

Ref: 2,3,4,7,8,9,14,149,154,190,192,193,245237,238.

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**Carapa procera** DC. (*Carapa surinamensis* Miq.)

**NAME:** Surinam: krapa.

**USES:** Stem: Infusion of wood taken to relieve diarrhoea. **Seed:** Yields a bitter oil used for scabies and other skin diseases.

**NOTE:** Nomenclature of this plant is explained by Howard, R.A. 1988. *Flora of the Lesser Antilles* 4: 585.

Ref: 195.
Cedrela odorata L.
USES: Stem: Cold water infusion of bark to treat fevers; astringent and aromatic bark used as a tonic. In Surinam, cedar shavings used in sweat baths to treat skin eruptions. Stem and Leaf: Bark and leaf decoction for a wash to treat headache. Bark used to treat sores in NW Guyana. Leaf: Decoction as a wash to treat fevers. Leaf and Flower: Infusion is an antispasmodic used for earache. Fruit: Anthelmintic. Seed: Oil used for cicatrization of wounds.
CHEM: Contains leucocyanidin, gedunin, methylangolensati 7-desacetoxy-7-ketogedunin, maxicanolid, camphor oil, triterpenes, meliacine, p-cumaric acid and the essential oil cedrelanol (44).
Ref: 8,14,48,154,192,193,195,245.

Guarea gomma Pulle
USES: Bark: Bark is boiled and the water drunk as a treatment for colds and for coughing by the Guyana Patamona. Stem: Decoction of trunk-bark is used as a vomititve for liver problems by the French Guiana Palikur. Root: Root-bark contains a bitter element used by the Surinam Amerindians as an emetic, which works in larger doses as an abortifacient. Stem: Decoction of trunk-bark is used as a vomititive for liver problems by the French Guiana Palikur.
Ref: 2,14,157,195,237.

Guarea cf. grandifolia A. DC.
USES: Whole plant: Decoction of crushed plant is drunk by the Surinam Tirio as a treatment for angina, asthma and dyspnoea. Stem: Liquid from rasped bark is rubbed onto skin by the Surinam Wayana to relieve body aches.
Ref: 8.

Guarea guidonia (L.) Sleumer (Guarea aubletti Juss.; Guarea guara (Jacq.) P.G. Wilson; Guarea trichilioides L.)
USES: Stem: Decoction of the bark is used as an emetic, purgative, haemostatic, vomitive, and to
treat infant's thrush. Bark used to induce vomiting in NW Guyana. **Leaf**: Boiled for an emetic. **Root and Stem**: Source of a juice for a purgative and violent emetic, which is also considered an emmenagogue and abortive; antiasthmatic. Juice is a corrosive poison which can be counteracted by an infusion of buds of *Jatropha curcas*.

**CHEM**: Bark and wood extracts contain beta-sitosterol. Seed contains angustinolide, a tetranotriterpenoid.

**Ref**: 3,7,8,9,149,154,190,191,192,245.

**Guarea kunthiana** A. Jussieu


**USES**: **Stem**: Cold water infusion of the bark is drunk by the Surinam Tirio as a treatment for malaria. Some of the people prepare the drink from the outer bark, while others prefer to use only the rasped inner bark.

**NOTES**: A cold water infusion of the bark of an undetermined species of *Guarea*, known to the Surinam Tirio as "meh-neh", is drunk as a treatment for malaria and stomachache (8).

**Ref**: 8.

**Guarea pubescens** (L.C. Rich.) A. Juss. (*Guarea davisii* Sandwith)


**USES**: **Root and Stem**: In Guyana, a decoction of the root and bark is used as a powerful emetic. **Root**: Decoction used as a douche in Guyana. Used for biliousness and to induce vomiting in NW Guyana.

**Ref**: 3,48,192,245.

**Melia azedarach** L.


**USES**: **Root**: Root-bark is boiled for a vermifuge and febrifuge. **Leaf**: Used to treat scabies or itches in Surinam. Decoction ingested to treat diarrhoea in Surinam. In French Guiana, an astringent decoction is used in gargles for tooth problems and to fortify the gums.

**Ref**: 14,154,173,195.

**Swietenia mahagoni** (L.) Jacq.


**USES**: **Stem**: Decoction of bark used to dress wounds from firearms. Bark is astringent, antiseptic and febrifuge. Bark infusion for dysentery.

**Ref**: 154,195.

**Trichilia micrantha** Benth.

**NAME**: Guyana Patamona: tu-mour-engkap.
USES: Bark: Bark is scraped, soaked in water and drunk as a charm for hunting savanna deer, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark is boiled, and the water drunk as an emetic, by the Guyana Patamona. Ref.: 237.

**Trichilia pallida** Sw.
USES: Bark: Macerated inner bark is used as an ointment, as an anti-fungal and for treating eczema, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice form the inner bark is used as an anti-bacterial or for sores, by the Guyana Patamona. **Bark and Leaf**: Macerated inner bark and leaves are used as an ointment for treating itching, chicken pox infection and measles, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Trichilia spp.**
NAMES: Surinam Tirio: kah-rah-pah-e-muh, tah-wah-de-ah.
USES: Stem: Cold water infusion of the rasped bark is drunk as a treatment for malaria by the Surinam Tirio.
NOTES: The common names refer to two different plants which are unidentified, but closely related to the genus *Trichilia*, and both used for malaria.
Ref: 8.

**MENISPERMACEAE**

**Abuta barbata** Miers
USES: Stem: Stem pieces are mixed with grated bark and leaves in a decoction for a febrifuge bath by the French Guiana Wayapi.
Ref: 2,189.

**Abuta grandifolia** (Martius) Sandwith
USES: Stem and Leaf: The stem, bark and leaves are macerated in rum for an aphrodisiac drink. Part unspecified: Ingredient in curare (arrow poison) made by the Surinam Wayana.
CHEM: Contains the alkaloid palmatine, and berberine derivatives.
NOTES: This plant is an ingredient in curare made by the Siona Indians of Ecuador and the following Colombian tribes: Karijona, Andoke, Makuna, Taiwano (10).
Ref: 2,189,194.

**Abuta imene** (Mart.) Eichl.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: e-pi-pri-yik.
USES: Bark: Bark is used as a fish poison, by the Guyana Patamona.
Abuta obovata Diels
USES: Part unspecified: Used for treating back pain by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.
Ref: 238.

Abuta rufescens Aublet
NOTES: In the 1700's this plant was exported from French Guiana to Europe, under the name "white pareira brava", for a preparation used to rid the liver, kidneys and bladder of obstructions such as mucus, grit and sand. It was formerly valued in the making of curare by various Amerindians (10).
Ref: 7, 8, 149, 154, 168, 189.

Abuta sandwithiana Krukoff & Barneby
USES: Stem: Stem and bark are grated into a dental analgesic decoction administered as a mouthwash by the French Guiana Wayapi.
CHEM: Root contains numerous alkaloids, including tetrahydroprotoberberines, which confirm the plant's analgesic properties.
Ref: 2.

Abuta sp.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: kouw-noik-cou-pou-yik
USES: Leaf: Macerated leaves are used to polish fishing poles, hooks and lines for success in fishing, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated leaves are used as an emollient for cuts and sores, for treatment for eczema, or as an ointment to get rid of unpleasant marks on the skin, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Cissampelos andromorpha DC.
USES: Whole plant: Warmed and rubbed on areas by the Surinam Tirio for an affliction tentatively identified as boils; steam from boiled plant is rubbed on Surinam Wayana women's stomach to treat a condition tentatively identified as diarrhoea.
NOTES: The whole plant is used by the Karijona and Makuna Amerindians of northwestern Amazonia in the preparation of curare (10).
Ref: 8.
Cissampelos ovalifolia DC.
USES: Root: A main ingredient of the urari (curare) prepared by the Guyana Macushi.
Ref: 32.

Cissampelos pareira L.
USES: Stem and Leaf: Juice form macerated leaves and stem is mixed with a little water and used as an anti-conjunctivitis or as a treatment for sore eyes by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from macerated leaves and stem is used as an anti-inflammatory, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves and stem are macerated in water as used as an anti-infective agent, by the Guyana Patamona,
Root: Diuretic employed in cases of dysuria and kidney stones; mucilaginous. Root infusion facilitates expectoration; alexiteric.
Ref: 154,237.

Curarea candicans (L.C. Rich.) Barneby & Krukoff (*Chondodendron candicans* (Rich.) Sandwith)
USES: Whole plant: In Guyana, it is mixed with other plants in a tonic for pain. The Surinam Tirio drip the sap into ears for treating earache. Stem: Wood used as aphrodisiac and for malaria and sores in NW Guyana.
CHEM: Contains the alkaloids berberine and isochondrodendrine (44,192).
NOTES: An undetermined species closely related to *Curarea candicans* is called "wah-rah-pah-yo-ge" by the Surinam Tirio, who use a decoction of its bark for fever, and known simultaneously to the Surinam Wayana as "ah-kah-de-mah", who use a cold water infusion of its crushed leaves to treat fever (8).
Ref: 8,9,189,245.

Orthomene schomburgkii (Miers) Barneby & Krukoff
USES: Bark, Stem and Leaf: Leaves, bark and stem are macerated and used as a poison, especially for hunting armadillo, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Orthomene verruculosa (Krukoff & Barneby) Barneby & Krukoff
USES: Stem: Used as a substitute for *Abuta sandwithiana* by the French Guiana Wayapi.
Ref: 2.

Sciadotenia cf. cayennensis Benth.
USES: Whole plant: Sap from the cut liana is dripped into aching ears by the Surinam Tirio. 
NOTES: The Surinam Tirio also give the same common name to another plant, an undetermined 
species of Menispermaceae, which they use in the same manner for earache as Sciadotenia cf. 
cayennensis (8). An unidentified species of Menispermaceae, known by the Surinam Tirio name 
"wah-rah-bah yo-ge", provides sap which is drunk to stop continuous vomiting (8). 
Ref: 8,189.

Telitoxicum sp. 
USES: Stem: Wood used for diabetes, fever and malaria in NW Guyana. 
Ref: 245.

Tinospora crispa (L.) Miers 
NAME: FG Creole: liane amere. 
USES: Stem: Macerated in rum, cognac or absinthe and mixed with bark of Quassia amara into a 
bitter beverage to control diabetes and albuminuria; macerated in rum or white wine for a malaria 
remedy; macerated in white wine for a vermifuge and an appetite stimulant for infants. 
CHEM: Contains the antidiabetic alkaloid palmatine (96). 
Ref: 2.

MENYANTHACEAE

Nymphoides indica (L.) Kuntze 
USES: Stem, Leaf and Flower: The French Guiana Palikur mix an emollient plaster when 
extracting small shot from wounds of a hunting accident. 
Ref: 2.