METEORIACEAE (Moss)

**Meteoriopsis patula** (Hedwig) Brotherus


**Uses:** Whole plant: Boiled by the Surinam Tirio for a decoction used as a wash for malaria and general weariness. Crushed and placed on machete cuts by the Surinam Wayana to staunch bleeding.

Ref: 8.

MIMOSACEAE

**Abarema jupunba** (Willd.) Britton & Killip (*Pithecellobium jupunba* (Willd.) Urban)


**Uses:** Whole plant: Reputedly a parasiticide. Root: Infusion of scraped roots is used to treat dandruff and to stimulate hair growth. Bark: Macerated bark is used as a shampoo and a soap, by the Guyana Patamona. Inner bark is used for treating itchy scalp, by the Guyana Patamona. Soap with anti-parasitic properties is extracted from the bark and used by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana. Bark and Leaf: Macerated leaves and inner bark are used as a detergent or as a treatment for itchy and scaling scalp, by the Guyana Patamona. Seed: Swallowed by young women just before engaging in sexual intercourse, as a fertility drug.

**Notes:** An undetermined species of *Abarema* or *Pithecellobium* known to the Surinam Tirio as "mah-nah-re-muh" provides leaves which are boiled in a decoction used as a wash to treat fevers (8).

Ref: 3,8,9,192,217,237,238.

**Abarema laeta** (Poep. & Endl.) Barneby & Grimes (*Pithecellobium laetum* Benth.)

**Name:** Guyana Patamona: tu-cu-nang-yik.

**Uses:** Bark: Bark is scraped and rubbed on the skin as an anti-pruritic, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark is mixed with water and used as an antiseptic for sores, as a treatment for chicken pox or measles, by the Guyana Patamona.

Ref: 237.

**Acacia articulata** Ducke

**Name:** Guyana Patamona: ma-ri-ma-ri-yik.

**Uses:** Leaf: Leaves are warmed and strapped around joints for arthritis pain, by the Guyana Patamona.
Acacia tenuifolia (L.) Willd. (*Acacia paniculata* Willd.)
USES: Whole plant: Cold water infusion to treat adult fevers. Stem: Liquid from cut stems used as a wash to treat fevers and abdominal pain. Stem is cut and the water from the cut is placed into the eyes as treatment for conjunctivitis, by the Guyana Patamona. Stem and Leaf: Macerated stem and leaves are used as an anti-inflammatory for eye infections, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 8, 217, 237.

Anadenanthera peregrina (L.) Speg. (*Mimosa acacioides* Benth.; *Piptadenia peregrina* (L.) Benth.)
NAMES: Guyana: parica, paricarama.
USES: Seed: In French Guiana, the seeds are pulverized for a violent sternutatory; for treating apoplexy. In nineteenth century Guyana, smoke from the pulverized, burned seeds was inhaled or rubbed into the eyes and ears to produce a state of intoxication by certain Amerindians. 
NOTES: This plant, which may be used as an intoxication enema in South America, is also "snuffed" in Brazil and possibly the West Indies (1).
Ref: 1, 7, 154, 173, 192.

Calliandra sp.
USES: Bark: Bark is boiled with water and used for a charm, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Inga alata Benoist
USES: Stem: The French Guiana Wayapi use sap from the grated and pressed bark to soothe mouth sores (thrush and other buccal dermatoses) of infants. Seed: Aril is edible.
CHEM: Leaf contains flavonols, particularly heterosides of myricetol.
Ref: 2, 8.

Inga alba (Swartz) Willd.
USES: Stem: Bark is chewed or used in a decoction for an antidysenteric, and pounded and applied onto ulcers; bark grated and pressed for a remedy to soothe mouth sores of infants and to relieve
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

pain of ant bites; bark used by the French Guiana Palikur to treat leishmaniasis; bark infusion to bathe ulcers; inner bark put on abscesses to draw out pus. Bark is used for female sterility, swelling, sores, and wounds and cuts. **Leaf**: Decoction employed as a wash for fever. **CHEM**: Bark indicates possible antimicrobial activity (40).

Ref: 2,8,40,48,192,217.

**Inga bourgoni** (Aublet) DC.
**USES**: Whole plant: Used for an astringent in Guyana. **Stem**: Same uses of the bark as given for **Inga alba**. **Fruit**: Astringent, used for catarrhal phlegm, diarrhoea and dysentery.

Ref: 2,7,154,192,217,245.

**Inga capitata** Desv.
**USES**: **Leaf**: Decoction employed to restore fertility to sterile women of the French Guiana Wayapi (fertile women abstain from eating the fruit).

Ref: 2,192,217.

**Inga edulis** (Vell.) Martius
**USES**: **Leaf**: Decoction of crushed leaves drunk by Surinam Tirio to relieve coughing. Decoction applied to sores of the lips (perhaps herpes) by the Surinam Akuriyo.

Ref: 8,192.

**Inga gracilifolia** Ducke
**USES**: **Stem**: Bark decoction used for treating colic in Guyana.

Ref: 8,48,192.

**Inga lateriflora** Miquel
**USES**: **Stem**: Infusion of bark mixed with salt used to bathe sores and ulcers in Guyana. Bark is used to treat sores and wounds and cuts in NW Guyana.

Ref: 3,8,48,192,245.
Inga pezizifera Benth.
USES: Whole plant: Potent pain-killer when rubbed on ant bites. Stem: Same uses for bark as given for Inga alba. Seed: Aril is edible.
CHEM: Contains numerous tannins.
Ref: 2,8,192.

Inga pilosula (L.C. Rich.) Macbride (Inga setifera DC.)
NAMES: Guyana: waiki, whitee.
USES: Stem: Bark decoction used to treat dysentery. Inner bark is scraped and used to treat toothache, as well as mixed with salt in a poultice for abscesses. Fruit: Pods commonly eaten by children.
Ref: 3.

Inga thibaudiana DC.
USES: Stem: Cold water infusion of bark is drunk for a malaria treatment and used to bathe ulcers. Bark is mixed with salt and applied to abscesses to draw suppuration. Fresh bark used for relieving pain of muniri ant stings.
NOTES: An undetermined species of Inga known to the Surinam Tirio as "ah-pu-ru-kwe" provides bark which is boiled for a decoction used as a wash to treat fevers. Another undetermined Inga species, without a common name, provides leaves which are made into a decoction which is drunk to treat stomachache (8).
Ref: 8,192,217.

Macrosamanea pubiramea (Steud.) Barneby & Grimes
USES: Stem: Bark used in treatment of fractures and sprains in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

Mimosa pigra L.
USES: Stem and Leaf: In Guyana, a decoction is used to treat thrush in babies and bed-wetting in children. Leaf: Leaves are macerated in the hands and rubbed on the eyes of babies or children to put them to sleep when they are irritable, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 3,237.

Mimosa polydactyla Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd.
USES: Leaf: Leaves used in treatment of bruises and coughs and colds in NW Guyana
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

Ref: 245.

**Mimosa pudica** L.
USES: Root: Used to control dipsomania (alcoholism) in Surinam. Stem and Leaf: Infusion used to sharpen the sense of smell in French Guiana hunting dogs. Leaf: In Surinam, an alcoholic extract is given by teetotalers to drunkards to remedy drunkenness. For a mild sudorific; infusion is tonic, bitter. Seed: Emetic. Root: Vomitive, irritant; toxic in large dosage.
Ref: 4,154,193,195,217.

**Mimosa somnians** Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: ah-mo-rong-yik.
USES: Whole plant: Plant is boiled, and the water used to bathe irritable young children and calm them down, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf: Footprints are covered with leaves as a charm for hunting tapir, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Parkia nitida** Miq.
USES: Stem: Inner bark is rasped into boiling water and the decoction used as a wash for fever by the Surinam Tirio. Seed: The French Guiana Wayapi consume the sugary, black substance surrounding the seed.
Ref: 2,8,192,217.

**Parkia pendula** (Willd.) Benth. ex Walp.
USES: Stem: Bark prepared in a decoction drunk for dysentery; bark is mixed with the stem-bark and root-bark of *Erythrina fusca* in a cataplasm for headache; inner bark rasped in a cold water infusion used as a wash for fevers; bark decoction for headache.
NOTES: An undetermined species of *Parkia* known to the Surinam Tirio as "e-ru" provides bark which is made into a cold water infusion used as a wash to treat fever (8).
Ref: 2,8,192,217.

**Pentaclethra macroloba** (Willld.) Kuntze
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)


USES: Whole plant: Sap is used to cleanse sores. Bark: Bark is boiled, and the water used as an antiseptic agent, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from the bark is applied onto cuts and bruises to stop bleeding or is given to babies as a treatment for thrush, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark is boiled with water and drunk as an emetic, as an anti-diarrheal, for stomach ulcers, for stomachaches or as a medicament for biliousness, by the Guyana Patamona. Inner bark is boiled with water and drunk as a treatment for jaundice, by the Guyana Patamona. Inner bark is placed in bage, macerated and then added to a stream to poison fish, by the Guyana Patamona.

Societies: Bark believed antiseptic; bark decoction as an emetic and to bathe ulcers; juice from inner bark applied to stop bleeding of cuts; poultice of powdered bark and salted butter to treat "bush yaws"; bark decoction mixed with rum, garlic and gunpowder in a poultice to treat poisonous snakebite; inner bark infusion for scorpion sting, emetic, purgative, fever, bronchitis, asthma, colds, sores. Bark used to treat snakebite, sores, sprains, toothaches, and wounds and cuts in NW Guyana. Leaf: Used to treat chickenpox and measles in NW Guyana. Seed: Employed by the French Guiana Palikur in the making of plasters for itches. Part unspecified: Soap and extracts used for treating cuts, sores, asthma and bronchitis, by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.

CHEM: Extracts contain alkaloids such as caffeoylputrescine (3).

Ref: 2,3,9,192,217,237,238,245.

Pithecellobium unguis-cati (L.) Benth.

NAMES: French Guiana: griffes de chat, ongles de chat, z'ongchatte.

USES: Stem: Bark is reputedly a febrifuge, and used in decoctions as a wash.

Ref: 154.

Zygia cataractae (Kunth) L. Rico

USES: Stem: Bark used to treat sprains in NW Guyana.

Ref: 245.

Zygia latifolia (L.) Fawcett & Rendle (Pithecellobium cauliflorum (Willd.) Martius)


USES: Stem: Inner bark rasped in a cold water infusion is drunk by the Surinam Tirio as a strengthening agent. Bark used for pain and sickness in babies in NW Guyana.

Ref: 8,192,245.
Mollinedia laurina Tul.
USES: Leaf: Infusion for an aromatic carminative and tonic. Other plant organs are used for the same purposes. 
Ref: 154.

Siparuna emarginata Cowan
USES: Stem and Leaf: Leaves mixed with stem-bark in a decoction for an external febrifuge. 
Ref: 2.

Siparuna guianensis Aublet
USES: Bark: Bark is boiled, and the water drunk as an antimalarial, as an anthelmintic (hookworm) or as an antipyretic, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark is boiled with water and given to babies for chest colds, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark and Leaf: Juice from macerated bark and leaves is used as an anti-fungal, by the Guyana Patamona. Luke warm mixture of the bark and leaves in water is used for washing the body to alleviate high temperatures, by the Guyana Patamona. Stem: Bark used to treat munuri ant (Pariponera clavata) bite and sickness in babies in NW Guyana. Leaf: Infusion for an abortive, febrifuge, headache remedy, vulnerary and to aid blood circulation. Infusion given to women convalescing after childbirth. Tincture used for reducing edema and as a vulnerary; decoction is sudorific, hypotensive; decoction in a cataplasm as an anti-inflammatory for bruises during confinement awaiting childbirth. Leaf tea is drunk as an excitant. Leaves are placed in the straw of sitting hen's laying boxes to repel mites ("nimbles"). Macerated leaves in cold water are used as an antipyretic, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated leaves in water are used as an herbal bath, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves used to treat wounds and cuts in NW Guyana. Leaf and Stem-bark: Decoction as a refresher, febrifuge, especially for grippe. Decoction for diabetes, thrush, hypertension, whooping cough, anthelmintic, ant-bite. Fruit and Root: Pulp of the fruit and macerated root are used as a medicament for “bush yaws”, by the Guyana Patamona. Part unspecified: Used as an antimalarial and for treating colds, by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana. 
CHEM: Contains the oxoaporphine alkaloids liriodenine and cassamedine (97). 
Ref: 2,3,4,9,16,154,190,192,193,195,228,237,238,245.

Siparuna cf. guianensis Aublet
**USES:** Whole plant: Decoction as a wash for treating fevers and colds. Stem: Bark decoction for external febrifuge. Stem and Leaf: Bark and leaves crushed in a liquid which is snuffed for coughs. Leaf: Macerated in a cold water infusion which is snuffed for coughs; decoction as a sudorific which is inhaled for coughs and colds.

**Ref:** 8.

### MORACEAE

**Artocarpus altilis** (Parkinson) Fosberg (*Artocarpus communis* J.R. Forster & G. Forster; *Artocarpus incisus* L. fil.)


**USES:** Stem: Exudate used to treat abscesses, bruises and sprains in NW Guyana. Leaf: Used in a decoction which is drunk to reduce tension. Hypertension and diabetes medications are prepared from a mixture of boiled leaves of this species and *Persea americana*, *Carica papaya* and *Annona muricata*. Leaf used to treat urinary tract ailments in NW Guyana.

**CHEM:** Fruit contains artocarpine and the enzyme papayotine. Leaf contains the phenols quercetin and camphorol, and gamma-aminobutyric acid, which lowers the blood pressure (3). Stem-bark and fruit contain cyclopropane sterols (98).

**NOTES:** Common cultivars of breadfruit in the Guianas are seedless. Seeded variants also occur in the Guianas, where they are variously known as "breadnut" in Guyana, "chataignier" in French Guiana, "satay" in French Guiana Wayapi, and as "kastanjebroodboom" and "sinibredebon" in Surinam. These diverse seeded cultivars have been named *Artocarpus incisa* (Thunberg) L. fil. var. *seminifera* Duss, *Fl. Phan. Antill. Franc.* 156 (1897). The French Guiana Wayapi apply the latex from seeded breadfruit onto the back to treat rheumatism (2).

**Ref:** 2,3,4,155,245.

**Brosimum acutifolium** Huber

**NAMES:** FG Galibi: takini. FG Palikur: tauni.

**USES:** Stem: Latex flowing from incisions is employed by the French Guiana Palikur and Wayapi shamans as an hallucinogenic substance in rituals.

**CHEM:** Pharmacology of latex of the genus *Brosimum* is discussed in *Ref:* 2, pp. 310-315.

**Ref:** 2.

**Brosimum alicastrum** Sw.

**NAME:** Guyana Patamona: pui-yik.

**USES:** Latex: Latex is mixed with water, warmed and drunk for dry coughs and for itchy sore throat, by the Guyana Patamona. Latex is applied directly on sores in the mouth and other parts of the body for healing, by the Guyana Patamona.

**Ref:** 237.
**Brosimum guianense** (Aublet) Huber (*Brosimum aubletii* Poepp. & Endl.; *Perebea guianensis* Aublet; *Piratinera guianensis* Aublet)


**USES:** Bark: Macerated bark is warmed, and used as an analgesic, by the Guyana Patamona. Stem: Latex is bitter, caustic. Latex mixed with dairy milk is drunk by the French Guiana Palikur to remedy internal ulcers. Latex employed as an anthelmintic. Latex is drunk as an antiasthmatic by the Guyana Patamona. Latex is drunk as a medicament for colds by the Guyana Patamona.

**Ref:** 2,154,192,237.

**Brosimum cf. lactescens** (S. Moore) C.C. Berg

**USES:** Latex: Latex is drunk as a remedy for persistent colds or persistent coughs, by the Guyana Patamona.

**Ref:** 237.

**Brosimum parinarioides** Ducke

**NAMES:** FG Creole: mapa. FG Palikur: amap. FG Wayapi: amapakuwa.

**USES:** Stem: Latex mixed with dairy milk is drunk by the French Guiana Palikur to remedy internal ulcers.

**NOTES:** Latex of *Brosimum parinarioides* subsp. *parinarioides* has been used to adulterate latex of balata in Guyana (16).

**Ref:** 2.

**Brosimum rubescens** Taub. (*Brosimum paraense* Huber)

**NAMES:** Guyana Patamona: pui-yik. Guyana Arawak: dukalibali.

**USES:** Latex: Latex is drunk as a medicament for colds or for coughing, by the Guyana Patamona. Part unspecified: Used as an anti-dysenteric by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.

**Ref:** 237,238.

**Brosimum utile** (Kunth) Pittier

**NAME:** Guyana Patamona: pui-yik.

**USES:** Latex: Latex is drunk as medication for colds or for whooping cough and as an analgesic, by the Guyana Patamona.

**Ref:** 237.

**Ficus amazonica** (Miq.) Miq.

**USES:** Stem: Exudate used for pain, swelling and abscesses in NW Guyana.

**Ref:** 245.
**Ficus caballina** Standl.  
**USES:** Stem: Exudate used to treat sprains, wounds and cuts in NW Guyana.  
**Ref:** 245.

**Ficus catappifolia** Kunth & Bouche  
**USES:** Stem: Latex used in a plaster by the French Guiana Palikur to soothe abdominal pain.  
**Ref:** 2.

**Ficus clusifolia** Schott  
**USES:** Stem: Powdered ash of burned young stems ingested as a diarrhoeic for French Guiana Wayapi children.  
**Ref:** 2.

**Ficus guianensis** Desv.  
**NAME:** Guyana Creole: fig.  
**USES:** Stem: The French Guiana Palikur use the latex in a plaster to soothe abdominal pains.  
**NOTES:** The Kuripako Indians of Colombia ingest the latex to relieve a sore stomach (10).  
**Ref:** 2,192.

**Ficus mathewsii** (Miq.) Miq.  
**NAME:** Guyana Arawak: kumakaballi.  
**USES:** Part unspecified: Latex used for a plaster (cataplasm), by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.  
**Ref:** 238.

**Ficus maxima** Miller  
**NAMES:** FG Wayapi: kwasini. Guyana Creole: fig.  
**USES:** Latex: The French Guiana Wayapi apply latex to treat rheumatism of the back.  
**Ref:** 2,192.

**Ficus nymphaeifolia** Miller  
**NAMES:** FG Creole: bois figue. FG Palikur: muhu ivine. Guyana Creole: fig.  
**USES:** Stem: Latex is employed by the French Guiana Palikur in a plaster on painful areas of the body. Exudate used to treat fractures and sprains in NW Guyana.  
**NOTES:** Along the Rio Negro in Brazil, people employ the latex of this plant to protect deep slashes and cuts from infection (10).  
**Ref:** 2,192,245.
Ficus obtusifolia Kunth (*Ficus gardneriana* (Miq.) Miq.)
USES: Stem: The French Guiana Palikur use the latex in a plaster to soothe abdominal pain.
Ref: 2,192.

Ficus paraensis (Miq.) Miq.
NOTES: In Colombia the Puinave and Makuna Indians use the latex for a vermifuge (10).
Ref: 2,192,245.

Ficus cf. roraimensis C.C. Berg
USES: Stem: Exudate used in treatment of fractures and sprains in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

Ficus trigona L. fil.
NAME: Guyana Creole: fig.
USES: Stem: Ash of burned young stems is consumed as a powder for children's diarrhoea by the French Guiana Wayapi.
Ref: 2,192.

Ficus sp.
USES: Whole plant: Decoction of the latex is used as a wash by the Surinam Tirio to treat general weakness. The Surinam Akuriyo apply the latex to areas of cracked skin on the foot.
Stem: Decoction of boiled bark is gargled or drunk by the Surinam Tirio as treatment for coughs.
Leaf: Crushed in a cold water infusion by the Surinam Wayana to remedy abdominal aches and general malaise.
NOTES: Another undetermined species of *Ficus*, known to the Surinam Tirio as "la-pa la-pa", provides bark made into a cold water infusion which is drunk for a very powerful vermifuge (8). In Guyana, an undetermined species of *Ficus* known as "kumakaballi fig" provides latex used to make plasters for sprains (48).
Ref: 8.

Helicostylis cf. pedunculata Benoist
USES: Leaf: Decoction of boiled leaves used as a wash for fevers by the Surinam Tirio.
CHEM: Extracts of *Helicostylis pedunculata* have depressant effects similar to those produced by *Cannabis* (99,171).
Ref: 8.

*Helicostylis tomentosa* (Poepp. & Endl.) Rusby
USES: Stem: In eastern Surinam, Carib priests drink the red, milky sap from the bark as an hallucinogen in order to contact the takini-spirit. Rasped bark mixed with alcohol is used for stomach cramps and pain accompanying a high fever.
NOTES: An undetermined species of *Helicostylis*, known to the Surinam Wayana as "eh-tah-pin" and to the Surinam Tirio as "tah-he-ne", provides bark which is decocted and used as a wash to relieve aching joints (8).
Ref: 14,16,171,192,193,195.

*Maclura tinctoria* (L.) G. Don ex Steud. (*Chlorophora tinctoria* (L.) Gaud.; *Morus tinctoria* L.)
USES: Stem: Bark used for a vermifuge in French Guiana.
NOTES: Plant introduced from Mexico to French Guiana.
Ref: 154.

**MORINGACEAE**

*Moringa pterygosperma* Gaertn. (*Moringa oleifera* Lam.)
USES: Root: Bark is rubefacient, used for hoarseness, sore throat and scurvy. Stem: Bark is antiscorbutic. Seed: Bitter, purgative, febrifuge.
NOTES: Plant introduced from India to French Guiana.
Ref: 154.

**MUSACEAE**

*Musa x paradisiaca* L. (*Musa x sapientum* L.)
USES: Root: Juice employed to treat carbuncles, swellings, fevers and as a hair tonic. Stem: Pulp of the trunk made into an infusion to soothe dysentery; liquid collected at a cut stem is an antiseptic applied to furuncles and wounds by the French Guiana Wayapi; stem used as a seat upon which a
pregnant Wayapi woman gives birth. **Leaf**: Infusion of banana leaf and sugarcane roots used in Surinam to hasten childbirth. For a vesicatory on blistering. Tied onto forehead for headache. **Fruit**: Roasted green (unripe) fruit eaten for diarrhoea remedy. Grated green fruit in water used for chronic diarrhoea. Green fruit and its sap are astringent; sap haemostatic. Outer skin (peel) considered an abortive in parts of French Guiana. Peeled, sliced fruit placed on forehead to relieve heat of a headache. Fruit used to treat epilepsy in NW Guyana.

**CHEM**: Fruit contains two vasoconstrictors: norepinephrine (a chemical used to raise blood pressure) and dopamine. Fruit is rich in vitamin A (100). Sap of fruit contains serothine, which has an action on the long muscles. Norepinephrine is good for a weak heart.

*Ref*: 2,154,190,193,195,245.

**Musa** sp.

**USES**: Sap: The sap of an unidentified species of *Musa* is used for treating hemorrhage, strained back, and puerperal fever in NW Guyana.

*Ref*: 245.

**Musa** sp.

**NAME**: Guyana Patamona: ry-an-da-yik.

**USES**: Sap: Sap is applied to cuts to stop bleeding as an antiseptic, by the Guyana Patamona. Sap is given to babies as a medication for thrush, by the Guyana Patamona.

*Ref*: 237.

**MYOPORACEAE**

**Bontia daphnoides** L.

**NAME**: French Guiana: olivier.

**USES**: Fruit: Oil of the berry is emollient, employed in treating colic and taenia (taenicide).

*Ref*: 154.

**MYRISTICACEAE**

**Compsoneura** sp.

**NAME**: Guyana Patamona: ma-rie-gok-yik.

**USES**: Bark: Bark is soaked overnight in water and drunk before embarking on a hunting trip, as a charm for successful hunting of the savanna deer, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark is boiled, and the water used as an emetic, by the Guyana Patamona.

*Ref*: 237.
**Iryanthera** cf. *hostmannii* (Bentham) Warburg


**Uses**: **Stem and Leaf**: Cold water infusion of leaves, bark and sap used to treat children's mouth sores and fevers. **Stem**: Exudate applied topically by the Surinam Tirio to treat anal itches, mouth sores, as well as placed in orifice of penis to treat gonorrhoea. Reddish exudate applied to aching teeth as an anodyne.

**Notes**: A bark infusion of an undetermined species of *Iryanthera* known in Guyana as "kirikaua" is used as an antidote to poison (9,48).

Ref: 8,214.

**Iryanthera juruensis** Warb.

**Uses**: **Stem**: Exudate used in treatment of mouth sores, thrush, and wounds and cuts in NW Guyana.

Ref: 245.

**Myristica fragrans** Houtt.


**Uses**: **Fruit**: A piece is chewed to alleviate stomachache in Surinam. **Seed**: The seed and its aril are employed as an excitant and stimulant in French Guiana.

**Notes**: Plant introduced from the Moluccas to the Guianas.

Ref: 154,195.

**Virola calophylla** Warb.

**Uses**: **Stem**: Exudate used in treatment of mouth sores and thrush in NW Guyana.

Ref: 245.

**Virola cf. elongata** (Benth.) Warb.

**Uses**: **Stem**: Exudate used for treatment of mouth sores and thrush in NW Guyana.

Ref: 245.

**Virola michelii** Heckel (*Virola melinonii* (Benoist) A.C. Smith)


**Uses**: **Stem and Leaf**: Decoction of bark and leaves as a wash for fevers and bleeding cuts. **Stem**: Red exudate applied to fungal infections of skin by Surinam Tirio, and dripped into eyes to relieve
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

pain by the Surinam Akuriyo. Exudate for children's thrush, and cataracts of the eye. In 18th century French Guiana, toothache pain was alleviated by covering the tooth with a piece of cotton soaked in the exudate.

CHEM: Chemistry and psychopharmacology (psychotropic activity) of the genus Virola have been studied (1,10,101).

NOTES: The wood of Virola is suitable for manufacture of plywood, veneer, particle board, crates, matches and coffins (102).

Ref: 8,48,192.

Virola sebifera Aublet (Myristica sebifera (Aublet) Swartz)


USES: Whole plant: Sap for treating ulcers and skin eruptions in Guyana. Bark: Bark is soaked overnight in water and drunk as a charm for hunting savanna deer, and birds such as the powis, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark is boiled with water and used to induce vomiting or drunk as a stimulant, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from the bark is applied as an analgesic for cracked heels, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark is soaked in water and used for bathing to break an “evil-eye” spell, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated bark is soaked in water and drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark and Leaf: Macerated leaves and bark placed in water overnight are drunk as a charm for hunting savanna deer (why-king), akuri (aku), and labba (uran), by the Guyana Patamona. Stem: Decoction of bitter red sap from bark is gargled or drunk by the Surinam Tirio to treat sores of the mouth and thrush. Bark is astringent; sap becomes resinous on exposure to air, used to relieve pain of toothache and to cauterize aphthae. Stem: Exudate used to treat mouth sores in NW Guyana.

CHEM: Contains dibenzylbutyrolactone lignans (103).

NOTES: Seed yields an oil formerly used as illuminating oil in Guyana. An undetermined species of Virola known in Guyana as "wild nutmeg" yields a sap used to treat yaws and as a mouthwash (45).

Ref: 7,8,149,154,192,214,237, 245.

Virola surinamensis (Rolander) Warburg


USES: Stem: Grated branches drunk in an antitussive decoction by French Guiana Wayapi. Bark decocted by French Guiana Palikur with bark of Humiria balsamifera for an external emollient wash for erysipelas and swellings. French Guiana Palikur also use the bark in a disinfectant mouthwash to treat abscessed teeth. Reddish exudate used by Surinam Tirio for skin rashes, toothache, anal itch and jock itch fungus. In NW Guyana, exudate used in treatment of mouthsores, thrush and toothache.
CHEM: Leaf contains the lignans elemicine, galbacine, veraguensine, surinamensine and viroline, which are toxic to parasitic bilharzia worms (104).
NOTES: This species is possibly used as an hallucinogenic snuff in Amazonia, where a bark infusion is used for haemorrhoids (10,105). Exudate from the bark is used for an erysipelas remedy in Brazil, and the Bora people of Peru make an intoxicating paste from it (10). Factors of seed dispersal by birds such as toucans, trogons and motmots are discussed by Howe, H.F., et al. 1985. *Ecology* 66(3): 781-791. Antimalarial use of volatile oil from leaves of this species by the Waiapi Indians in western Amapa State, Brazil is discussed by Lopes, N.P., et al. 1999. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 67(3): 313-319.
Ref: 2,8,14,155,192,214,245.

**Virola** sp.

NAME: Guyana Arawak: dalli.
USES: Part unspecified: In a decoction for sore lips after a fever. As a dressing for sores.
NOTES: Three Guyana species of *Virola* are called "dalli", and another is called "man dalli".
Ref: 190,192.

**MYRSINACEAE**

**Cybianthus fulvopulverulentus** (Mez) Agostini subsp. *magnoliifolius* (Mez) Pipoly (*Conomorpha magnoliifolia* Mez)

USES: Stem: Inner bark used in a poultice for cuts and sores in Guyana; employed as a fish poison in Surinam.
Ref: 9,14.

**MYRTACEAE**

**Calycolpus goetheanus** (Martius ex DC.) O. Berg (*Calycolpus glaber* (Benth.) O. Berg)

USES: Bark: Bark is boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona. Stem or Fruit: A decoction or infusion of the bark or young fruit is used to treat dysentery, diarrhoea and colic in Guyana. Leaf: Used in treatment of hypertension in NW Guyana. Fruit: Juice from young fruits is drunk as an anti-dysenteric, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 48,192,229,237,245.
**Calyptranthes pulchella** DC.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: pea-kok-yik.
USES: Bark: Bark is boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona. 
Leaf: Leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as a treatment for colds, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Calyptranthes pullei** Burret ex Amshoff
NAME: Guyana Patamona: wik-wha-yik.
USES: Bark: Juice from macerated bark is used for treating cuts and wounds, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from macerated inner bark is used for treating discolored rashes ("lotta", a skin infection) and for treating ringworm, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Campomanesia aromatica** (Aublet) Griseb. (*Psidium aromaticum* Aublet)
USES: Stem and Leaf: Decoction of branches has odor of the mint *Melissa*, and is used in tonic baths. Leaf: The Surinam Tirio use a cold water infusion to treat headache and fevers. The Surinam Wayana use an infusion of crushed leaves as a wash to treat small skin sores. Fruit: Bitter, astringent.
Ref: 8,154.

**Campomanesia grandiflora** (Aublet) Sagot (*Psidium grandiflorum* Aublet)
USES: Fruit: Bitter, astringent.
Ref: 154,229.

**Eucalyptus camaldulensis** Dehnh.
NAMES: Guyana: eucalyptus, red river gum.
USES: Leaf: Infusion inhaled or mixed with infusion of other aromatic herbs and drunk as a tea to treat colds, congestion and (less commonly) diabetes.
CHEM: Eucalyptus oil is used in modern medicinal preparations as a decongestant, anti-inflammatory, vasoconstrictor and local antiseptic (3).
Ref: 3.

**Eucalyptus globulus** Labill.
NAME: French Guiana: eucalyptus.
USES: Part unspecified: Yields eucalyptus oil used for nasal and pulmonary conditions in French Guiana.
Ref: 168.
**Eugenia anastomosans** DC.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: gua-ba-yik.
USES: Bark and Leaf: Bark and leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf: Leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as a medication for colds, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Eugenia latifolia** Aublet
USES: Stem: Wood is astringent.
Ref: 154.

**Eugenia polystachya** Rich.
USES: Leaf: The French Guiana Wayapi use a decoction for a cataplasm to remedy sore throat.
CHEM: Essential oil is eugenol.
Ref: 2.

**Eugenia punicifolia** (Kunth) DC.
USES: Bark: Bark is boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark and Leaf: Bark and leaves are boiled with water and drunk for colds, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Eugenia tafelbergiana** Amshoff
NAME: Guyana Patamona: mi-gam-be-me-yu-yik.
USES: Leaf: Leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as a treatment for colds, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Eugenia uniflora** L. (*Eugenia michelii* Lam.)
USES: Whole plant: Aromatic. Leaf: Decoction or infusion used to remedy head colds, influenza, chest colds, cough, fever and as a bitter tonic. Infusion drunk shortly before childbirth in Surinam. Fruit: Acidic, refreshant. In a syrup for influenza.
CHEM: Stem and leaf show possible antimicrobial activity (12).
Ref: 3,12,154,193,195,229.
Eugenia sp.
USES: **Bark**: Bark is boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona.
**Fruit**: Juice from grated young fruits is drunk as an anti-diarrheal or as an antidysenteric, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Marlierea cf. *summa* McVaugh
NAME: Guyana Patamona: pea-cock-yik.
USES: **Bark**: Bark is boiled and the water drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona.
**Fruit**: Juice from young fruits is used as an anti-dysenteric, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

*Myrcia guianensis* (Aublet) DC.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: tuk-pong-yik.
USES: **Bark and Leaf**: Bark and leaves are boiled and the water drunk as an anti-dysenteric, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

*Myrcia sylvatica* (G.W. Mey.) DC.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: tuk-pong-yik.
USES: **Bark and Leaf**: Bark and leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

*Myrcia tomentosa* (Aublet) DC.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: mi-gan-pi-me-you-yik.
USES: **Root**: Roots are boiled and the water drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

*Myrciaria amazonica* O. Berg
NAMES: Guyana Patamona: wick-wha-yik.
USES: **Bark**: Inner bark is boiled, and the water used for treating dermatoses, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from macerated inner bark is used as an anti-fungal or for treating sores, by the Guyana Patamona. **Bark and Leaf**: Inner bark and leaves are boiled, and the water used as an antiseptic, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

*Myrciaria* cf. *vismiifolia* (Bentham) O. Berg
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)


USES:  Whole plant: The Surinam Tirio use decoction of crushed plant as a wash to treat fever and weakness. The Surinam Wayana wash with a decoction, and then wash with a cold water infusion of the plant, to remedy weakness, malaise and lack of appetite.

NOTES:  Plants determined as true *Myrciaria vismiifolia* provide bark made into a decoction to treat dysentery and diarrhea in Guyana (9).

Ref:  8.

**Pimenta dioica** (L.) Merrill (*Pimenta officinalis* Lindley)


USES:  Whole plant: All parts have an essential oil used for toothache. Oil is similar to clove oil and is used in rubs with a butter made from *Astrocaryum vulgare*. Fruit: Carminative, stimulant, digestive.

Ref:  154.

**Pimenta racemosa** (Miller) J.W. Moore


USES:  Leaf: Dried leaves made into a tea used to treat flatulence, and drunk as an all-purpose beverage. Leaf yields an oil which is distilled and used as a mosquito repellent, for stomach pain, and for skin diseases.

CHEM:  Leaf and fruit contain an essential oil composed mainly of the phenol eugenol, as well as methyl eugenol, isoeugenol and chavicol; many monoterpene and sesquiterpene hydrocarbons are also present (106).

Ref:  3,173,195,229.

**Psidium acutangulum** Mart. ex DC.


USES:  Bark: Bark is boiled with water and drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf: Young leaves are boiled and drunk as an anti-dysenteric, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruit: Juice of the young fruits is drunk as an anti-dysenteric or for “bad-belly”, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruits are used by the Guyana Patamona for making a tonic.

Ref:  237.

**Psidium guajava** L. (*Psidium pomiferum* L.; *Psidium pyriferum* L.)


USES:  Bark: Bark is boiled and the water drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona. Stem and Leaf: Young stems, bark and/or leaves mixed for an antidiarrhoeic decoction. Stem: Bark is boiled with the bark of *Punica granatum* and *Mangifera indica* and drunk to treat diarrhoea. Bark
mixed with cashew bark for dysentery remedy. Bark infusion for ringworm. In NW Guyana, bark used as treatment for diarrhea. **Leaf:** Used with leaves of *Monstera obliqua* to soothe ulcers of leishmaniasis; mixed with *Solanum leucocarpon* leaves for an antidiarrhoeic; astringent. Decoction for stomach pain. Juice of young leaves used to treat skin spots. Young leaves are boiled and the water drunk as an anti-dysenteric, by the Guyana Patamona. **Leaf:** Used to treat diarrhea in NW Guyana. **Fruit:** Green fruit is eaten to relieve diarrhea. Juice of the young fruits is drunk also as an anti-dysenteric or for “bad-belly”, by the Guyana Patamona.

**CHEM:** Plant contains psiditanic acid, a very astringent substance (154). Unripe fruit contains hexahydroxydiphenic acid and L-arabinose, which disappear in ripe fruit (107).

**Ref:** 2, 3, 154, 193, 195, 229, 237, 245.

**Psidium guineense** Sw.

**NAMES:** Guyana Patamona: peg-kok-yik, qua-pa-yik, ma-ra-yao-yik.

**USES:** Bark: Bark is boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-diarrheal by the Guyana Patamona. **Leaf:** Leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as a treatment for coughing or as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona. **Fruit:** Juice of the young fruit is squeezed and used as an anti-dysenteric or for “bad-belly”, by the Guyana Patamona.

**Ref:** 237.

**Psidium persoonii** McVaugh

**NAMES:** FG Creole: goiyave-saut. FG Wayapi: alali.

**USES:** Stem: French Guiana Wayapi use the grated bark alone, or sometimes combined with leaves of the plant, in a decoction to treat diarrhoea.

**CHEM:** Leaf contains the essential oils pinene, limonene and cineol.

**Ref:** 2.

**Psidium striatulum** DC. (*Psidium aquaticum* Benth.)


**USES:** **Whole plant:** Used as an astringent. **Leaf:** Crushed in a decoction used to treat dysentery and diarrhoea.

**Ref:** 7, 9, 192, 229.

**Syzygium aromaticum** (L.) Merrill & L.M. Perry (*Caryophyllus aromaticus* L.; *Eugenia caryophyllata* Thunb.)


**USES:** Stem and Flower: Infusion of the shoots and the unopened, dried flower buds (clove) is used for an excitant in French Guiana. **Flower:** Cloves often used in medicinal infusions in Surinam.

**NOTES:** Plant introduced from the Moluccas to French Guiana.

**Ref:** 154, 195, 229.
Syzygium cumini (L.) Skeels (*Eugenia cumini* (L.) Druce; *Eugenia jambolana* Lam.; *Syzygium jambolana* (Lam.) DC.)


**USES:** Stem: Bark infusion for irregular menstruation. For treating diarrhoea, dysentery, and children's thrush. In NW Guyana, bark used for diarrhea and to stop vomiting. Branches employed in whitening teeth in NW Guyana. Leaf: Infusion for diabetes. Used to treat diarrhea in NW Guyana. Fruit: Used for diarrhea in NW Guyana. Fruits are used as a beverage/tonic and wine, by the Guyana Patamona. Seed: Seeds are parched, pulverised and made into a coffee-like beverage used to treat diabetes. For children's bed-wetting. Infusion for catarrhal fever. Seed-pits are used for regulating blood pressure, and sugar in the urine. Used to treat diabetes in NW Guyana.

**CHEM:** Dried seed yields a hypoglycemically active substance (3). Seed contains the alkaloid jambosin, and jambulol (193).

Ref: 3,193,195,229,237,245.

Syzygium jambos (L.) Alston (*Eugenia jambos* L.)

**NAMES:** French Guiana: pomme rose. Surinam: appelroos, pommeroos.

**USES:** Fruit: In French Guiana, used as an ingredient in an agreeably perfumed and refreshing lemonade.

**NOTES:** Plant introduced from tropical Asia to French Guiana.

Ref: 154,229.

NYCTAGINACEAE

Boerhavia diffusa L. (*Boerhavia coccinea* Miller; *Boerhavia hirsuta* L.; *Boerhavia decumbens* Vahl; *Boerhavia diandra* Aublet; *Boerhavia paniculata* Rich.)

**NAMES:** French Guiana: ipecaquana (root). FG Creole: ipeca.

**USES:** Whole plant: For treating gastric disturbances; vomitive, purgative. Root: As an ipecacuana substitute. A very astringent emetic and purgative. In a decoction for dysentery; antispasmodic, emmenagogue, diuretic, sudorific. Leaf: For jaundice; in a cataplasm for treating indurated liver; leaf edible.

Ref: 7,18,149,154,168.

Mirabilis jalapa L. (*Mirabilis dichotoma* Gaterau)

**NAMES:** French Guiana: belle-de-nuit, herbe de quatre heures, nyctage faux jalap. Surinam: vieruursbloem. Surinam Sranan: fojoeroe-bromki, nachtschone.

**USES:** Root: For a drastic purgative and depurative. Used against hydropsy and gout. Leaf: In Surinam, a poultice of the leaves is used to hasten scab formation on wounds.

Ref: 154,195.
NYMPHAEACEAE

Nymphaea amazonum Mart. & Zucc.
USES: Leaf: Surinam Chinese use a decoction of leaves as a hairwash to prevent dandruff and hair loss. When the scrotum is hurt, such as by a bruise or wound, the afflicted area is rubbed with oil, and a warmed leaf of this waterlily is applied. The same usage of a warmed leaf is applied to an area inflamed with filaria worms.
Ref: 195.

Nymphaea ampla (Salisb.) DC.
USES: Leaf: Used in treatment of warts in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

Nymphaea rudgeana G. Meyer
NAME: FG Palikur: padidwan.
USES: Stem, Leaf and Flower: Used by the French Guiana Palikur in an emollient plaster when extracting small shot from a hunting accident wound.
Ref: 2.

OCHNACEAE

Cespedesia spathulata (Ruiz & Pavon) Planch. (Cespedesia amazonica Huber)
USES: Stem: Decoction of the bark is used to treat dysentery and diarrhoea in Guyana.
Ref: 9, 192.

Ouratea guianensis Aublet (Gomphia guianensis (Aublet) Richard)
Ref: 2, 154.

Sauvagesia elata Benth.
USES: Same properties as given for Sauvagesia erecta.
Sauvagesia erecta L. (*Sauvagesia adima* Aublet)
USES: Whole plant: Astringent, used for ophthalmia and diarrhoea; anti-inflammatory diuretic; for digestive tract infections. Used to treat colds and coughs in NW Guyana. Stem and Leaf: Infusion drunk as a febrifuge. Leaf: Pectoral, mucilaginous. Infusion used to treat diarrhoea. Part unspecified: A bitter aromatic, stomachic and cordial.
CHEM: Aerial parts of the plant contain anthocyanins, leucoanthocyanins, catechuic tannins and flavonoids (108).
Ref: 2,4,154,245.

Sauvagesia sprengelii St. Hil.
USES: Same properties as given for *Sauvagesia erecta*.
Ref: 154.

**OLACACEAE**

Heisteria cauliflora J.E. Smith
USES: Leaf: The Surinam Wayana boil the leaves in a decoction used as a wash to relieve foot cramps.
Ref: 8,192.

Ptychopetalum olacoides Bentham
USES: Root: Macerated in rum and mixed with bark of *Strychnos erichsonii* for an aphrodisiac. Stem: Bark of the trunk is consumed in a decoction for an expectorant and as a tonic for pulmonary difficulties; the same decoction is rubbed onto children of the French Guiana Wayapi to promote muscular development. Surinam Tirio men drink bark tea and rub bark on the genitals to stimulate sexual appetite. The stem-bark is used as an aphrodisiac in French Guiana.
CHEM: Decocted drug contains behenic acid, lupeol, and compounds having peripheral vasodilator and nicotine-like action. Material from Montagne des Cheveaux, French Guiana has been phytochemically analyzed (240).
NOTES: Extracts of this plant, known in trade under the Brazilian name "muirapuama", are marketed in Brazil and the United States as an aphrodisiac. In the Brazilian Amazon, various tribal
people drink a tonic made from the stem and root to treat sexuality problems and neuromuscular problems, paralysis, beriberi, rheumatism, grippe, cardiac and gastrointestinal asthenia, and baldness (10).
Ref: 2,8,32,240.

Ximenia americana L.
USES: Fruit: Skin of fruit is astringent. Seed: Used to treat snakebite in Guyana.
Ref: 9,149,192.

OLEACEAE

Jasminum grandiflorum L.
NAME: French Guiana: jasmin d'Espagne.
USES: Flower: In a bechic tea.
NOTES: Plant introduced from the Himalayan region to French Guiana.
Ref: 154.

Jasminum officinale L.
NAME: Guyana: jasmin.
USES: Flower: Placed in water and the liquid used to bathe sore eyes.
Ref: 190.

Jasminum sp.
NAME: Surinam: jasmijn.
USES: Leaf: In a decoction for a pyretic.
Ref: 195.

OLEANDRACEAE

Nephrolepis biserrata (Swartz) Schott
USES: Leaf: Used in treatment of wounds and cuts in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

ONAGRACEAE
Ludwigia erecta (L.) Hara
NAME: Guyana: pastalon.
USES: Leaf: Boiled in a tea for treating weak but rapid heart rate, particularly when combined with leaves of Annona muricata. Boiled and the liquid used to make a porridge with oatmeal, plantain, flour or sago flour to treat thrush.
Ref: 234.

Ludwigia hyssopifolia (G. Don) Exell
NAME: FG Creole: girofle d'eau.
USES: Leaf: Used in a febrifuge decoction by the French Guiana Palikur.
Ref: 2.

Ludwigia nervosa (Poir.) Hara
USES: Part unspecified: As a tonic and antirheumatic.
Ref: 2.

ORCHIDACEAE

Catasetum barbatum (Lindley) Lindley
USES: Whole plant: Decoction washed on the body for a febrifuge by the French Guiana Wayapi.
Ref: 2.

Epidendrum paniculatum Ruiz & Pavon
NAME: FG Wayapi: kwata alapalu.
USES: Same use as given for Catasetum barbatum.
Ref: 2.

Rodriguezia lanceolata Ruiz & Pavon
USES: Same use as given for Catasetum barbatum.
Ref: 2.

Vanilla pompona Schiede
USES: Fruit: In Surinam, fermented fruit is made into vanilla crystals which are put into carapa oil (Carapa guianensis). For poor blood circulation, skin conditions.
Ref: 193.
OXALIDACEAE

**Averrhoa bilimbi** L.
USES:  Leaf: Three leaves are put in water and the liquid is drunk daily for remedying high blood pressure. Fruit: One or two pickled fruits are eaten for controlling diarrhoea. Spoiled (rotten) fruit is rubbed on "lota" (skin fungus) disease to make it disappear. In French Guiana, syrup is used for inflammatory diseases, especially hepatitis. Decoction of unpeeled fruit for hepatitis, fever, diarrhoea and colic.
Ref: 154,195.

**Averrhoa carambola** L.
USES:  Fruit: In a syrup for bilious fever; syrup for an excellent antiscorbutic. Used to treat cracks in feet in NW Guyana.
NOTES:  Plant introduced from the East Indies to French Guiana.
Ref: 154,245.

**Oxalis barrelieri** L.
USES:  Whole plant: Antiscorbutic. Root and Leaf: Used as a masticatory for oral hygiene in the region of Cayenne, French Guiana. Part unspecified: In a resolutive cataplasm.
NOTES:  An undetermined species of *Oxalis*, known in French Guiana as "trefle", provides leaves which are mixed with white wine and used against malaria (4).
Ref: 2,154,168.

PAPAVERACEAE

**Argemone mexicana** L.
USES:  Whole plant: Infusion used against asthma. Root: Taken in rum or cognac for stomach pain. Stem: Sap from the cut end of the stem is applied to cavities as a treatment for toothache, by the Guyana Patamona. Flower: Infusion of petals is given to children having difficulty with urination.
Ref: 195,237.

**Bocconia pearcei** Hutch.
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

NAMES: Guyana Patamona: I-ki-ya-mo-yik, ah-key-ya-mu-yik.
USES: Root: Root is boiled and the water drunk as an antidysenteric or for “bad-belly”, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark: Bark is boiled, and the water used as an anti-fungal for athlete’s foot, by the Guyana Patamona.
NOTE: A Bolivian species not yet recorded in the taxonomic literature from the Guianas.
Ref: 237.

PASSIFLORACEAE

Passiflora coccinea Aublet
USES: Stem: The French Guiana Wayapi use sap extracted from crushed stems as an eyewash to soothe conjunctivitis.
Ref: 2,192.

Passiflora edulis Sims
USES: Leaf: Mixed with "verveine", "pied de poule" and Ricinus communis in an emulsion for liver inflammation.
Ref: 154.

Passiflora foetida L.
USES: Whole plant: Fresh plant is boiled and the liquid used as a children's anthelmintic, for intestinal nematodes and flatworms. Decoction of dried plant drunk to treat colds and chest coughs. Used in the treatment of tuberculosis, worms, and for coughs and colds in NW Guyana. Leaf: Infusion for healing wounds.
CHEM: Leaf contains substance having possible antimicrobial activity (12).
Ref: 3,12,193,195,234,245.

Passiflora garckei Masters
NAME: Guyana Patamona: ak-row-mang-yik.
USES: Fruit: Fruits are boiled and the water used as a tonic by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Passiflora glandulosa Cavanilles
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)


USES:  Whole plant: Sap rubbed on skin to treat gonorrhoea and kidney stones. Stem: Bark is rasped and placed inside aperture of penis as treatment for gonorrhoea and kidney stones. Sap extracted from crushed stems used as an eyewash to soothe conjunctivitis by the French Guiana Wayapi. Bark decoction used for treating "black skin worm" by the Surinam Tirio. Leaf: Leaves are used as an emollient for sores, cuts and bruises, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruit: Juice contains Vitamin C. Fruits are soaked in water and used for making a tonic, by the Guyana Patamona. Part unspecified: Used by the Surinam Saramaccan Bush Negroes as an ingredient in a curative herbal bath.

Ref: 2,8,192,193,195, 237.

Passiflora laurifolia L. (Passiflora tinifolia Juss.)


USES:  Root: The French Guiana Palikur use a cold, salted decoction for an effective vermifuge. Stem and Leaf: Boiled for a children's vermifuge in Guyana. Leaf: Vermifuge. Used for dressing syphilitic ulcers in French Guiana. Powdered leaves are bitter and considered an anthelmintic.

CHEM: Green fruit contains acetone and a cyanogenic heteroside which disappears upon maturity of the fruit.

NOTES: The fruit-juice of an undetermined species of Passiflora is used by the Guyana Macushi as an astringent, caustic rub on intentionally bled cuts (7). Colombian Kubeo use the fruit juice for children's sore throat and as a children's soporific (10)

Ref: 2,3,154,192.

Passiflora pedata L.

USES: Fruit: Fruit is boiled and the liquid used as a tonic by the Guyana Patamona.

Ref: 237.

Passiflora nitida Kunth

USES:  Leaf: Used to treat intestinal disorders in NW Guyana.

Ref: 245.

Passiflora quadrangularis L.

USES: Root: A potent narcotic and considered a dangerous poison. Noxious effects of the poison are counteracted by a decoction of *Petiveria alliacea*, *Cassia* sp., *Andropogon* sp. and "bois-trompette". In Surinam, a root infusion is drunk to destroy intestinal worms. Ref: 154,193.

**Passiflora vespertilio** L.  
USES: Leaf: Warm leaves are used as an anti-inflammatory by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf and Stem: Juice from macerated leaves and stems is mixed with a little water and used as an anti-infective, as an anti-inflammatory or for treating eye infections, by the Guyana Patamona. Ref: 237.

**Passiflora** sp.  
USES: Leaf: Macerated leaves are used as an emollient by the Guyana Patamona. Ref: 237.

**PEDALIACEAE**

**Sesamum indicum** L. (*Sesamum orientale* L.)  

**PHYTOLACCACEAE**

**Microtea debilis** Swartz  
USES: Whole plant: Infusion of crushed plant is drunk for a diuretic and hypotensive. Tea of plant used for heart palpitations and to cool inflamed areas. Used as an abortifacient, and as lotion for ulcers; mixed with *Siparuna guianensis* and drunk to remedy diabetes. In Surinam, used for treating albumin in urine, and to remedy cases of difficult urination. Cooked, including roots, in a tea for kidney ailments. Leaf: Used for fevers, thrush, and coughs and colds in NW Guyana. Ref: 2,3,14,193,195,245.
Petiveria alliacea L.
USES: Whole plant: Boiled with Ruellia tuberosa root, Cocos nucifera root and Cajanus cajan leaves, and the liquid used as a purgative by women suffering from leucorrhoea ("bladder troubles"). Boiled with Ruellia tuberosa, Justicia secunda and Vernonia cinerea in a decoction which is drunk in small quantities to relieve menstrual pain, while large doses are used to cause an abortion. Decoction as tonic for "female rejuvenation" and as a diuretic. Infusion for colic. Root: For an antispasmodic, febrifuge, sedative, diuretic, emmenagogue and abortifacient. Roots used for an analgesic to remedy toothache. Root has the odor of onion. Leaf: Sudorific, depurative; in a decoction for a dry cough. Powdered leaves used in a treatment for ulcerated wounds, and as an insecticide to prevent itching. Leaf: Used for fevers in NW Guyana.
CHEM: Leaf extracts show possible analgesic and antimicrobial activity, and contain alkaloids. Root contains coumarins (3,109). Plant has garlic odor and contains trithiolaniacin (which is also found in the onion), potassium nitrate and isoarbonnol.
Ref: 2,3,4,154,190,245.

Phytolacca americana L. (Phytolacca decandra L.)
USES: Root: Syphilis. Root and Fruit: Juice is purgative.
NOTES: Plant introduced from North America to French Guiana.
Ref: 7,154,190.

Phytolacca icosandra L.
USES: Root and Fruit: Juice is purgative.
NOTES: Plant introduced from India to French Guiana.
Ref: 154.

Phytolacca rivinoides Kunth & Bouche
USES: Root: Decoction is drunk to treat syphilis in Guyana. Stem: Young stem eaten to treat diabetes in Guyana. Leaf: Eaten to treat diabetes in Guyana. Liquid from crushed leaves in water is rubbed onto hair to kill lice, fleas and to treat dandruff by the Surinam Tirio, who also wash with a decoction of the boiled leaves as a treatment for fevers. Part unspecified: Used for treating rabies, lung diseases and tumors, by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.
CHEM: Contains carbomethoxy oleanolic acid (3).
Ref: 3,8,238.

Seguieria americana L.
USES: Whole plant: The Wayapi Indians of French Guiana use the plant as a hunting poison, and the root and stem have almost the same effect as curare made from *Strychnos guianensis* (Loganiaceae) (2).
Ref: 2.

**PIPERACEAE**

**Peperomia elongata** Kunth
USES: Stem and Leaf: Aerial parts of the plant are prepared in a decoction applied as a febrifuge. The French Guiana Wayapi crush the aerial parts and make them into tampons employed on hypertrophied areas caused by malaria.
Ref: 2.

**Peperomia glabella** (Swartz) A. Dietr.
USES: Same uses as given for *Peperomia elongata*.
NOTES: The Ingano of Colombia use a leaf decoction of var. *melanostigma* (C. DC.) Yuncker for conjunctivitis (10).
Ref: 2.

**Peperomia macrostachya** (Vahl) A. Dietr.
USES: Same uses as given for *Peperomia elongata*.
NOTES: The Taiwano of Colombia use a leaf tea of var. *melanostachya* (Link) Trelease & Yuncker for relief of painful urination in older people (10).
Ref: 2.

**Peperomia obtusifolia** (L.) A. Dietr.
NAME: French Guiana: pourpier des savanes.
USES: Stem and Leaf: Same uses as given for *Peperomia elongata*. Leaf: Succulent leaves are an excellent antiscorbutic.
NOTES: The Kubeo Indians of Colombia use the crushed leaves as a rub to reduce pain of arthritic joints (10).
Ref: 2,154.

**Peperomia pellucida** (L.) Kunth
USES: Whole plant: Infusion for cholagogue and refreshant; sap for eyedrops, eye infections. Surinam Saramaccan Bush Negroes use it in a curative herbal bath. Stem and Leaf: Mixed in milk
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

for oral afflictions in general such as gingivitis and dental neuralgia; for a local vulnerary; infusion is refreshing, hypotensive, cholagogue, used to treat hypertension, heart troubles and to cool the body. Warmed as an eyewash ingredient. Leaf: For albuminuria in Surinam. Used for a diuretic in Guyana, where it is also eaten as a salad to cleanse the blood, and used in an infusion to cure womb inflammations. In Guyana, juice is squeezed from the leaves into a patient's eyes to treat cataracts. In a strong tea for bronchitis and asthma.

NOTES: The Tikuna of Colombia place a poultice of leaves on infected wounds and ulcers (10).

Ref: 2,3,4,12,190,193,195,202,234.

**Peperomia procumbens** C. DC.
USES: Leaf: Antiscorbutic, sudorific and febrifuge; eaten in a salad for its mild purgative properties.
NOTES: Plant introduced from Peru to French Guiana.
Ref: 154.

**Peperomia rotundifolia** (L.) Kunth
USES: Leaf: In a decoction to remedy grippe, asthma, and as an antialgic for wounds; sap extracted from pulverised leaves used in ear-drops to treat earache; crushed leaves in a decoction with wild honey for an antitussive. In Surinam an infusion is made with butter and sugar to remedy influenza; infusion for high blood pressure and urinary conditions. As a stomachic and tonic for the digestive tract.
Ref: 2,4,14,154,193,195.

**Peperomia serpens** (Swartz) J.C. Loudon
USES: Same uses as given for *Peperomia rotundifolia*, except the Surinam influenza infusion.
NOTES: In Ecuador, "the aromatic leaves and stems are locally employed by the Kofans to relieve the irritant sting of the conga ant (*Dinoponera grandis*)" (10).
Ref: 2.

**Peperomia sp.**
USES: Leaf: Crushed and mixed with water for application onto botfly larvae parasitizing skin of the Surinam Wayana. Crushed, warmed leaves applied onto lip sores of Surinam Akuriyo children.
Ref: 8.

**Piper aduncum** L.
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

USES: **Whole plant**: Used by the Surinam Saramaccan as an ingredient in a curative herbal bath. **Leaf and Stem**: Macerated leaves and stems are used as a medicament for sores by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 193,202,237.

*piper aff. alatabaccum* Trelease & Yuncker
USES: **Leaf**: Cold water infusion used to wash skin which is irritated by a pepper-like burning sensation. Used in the arrow poison (a type of curare called "kah-mah-ne") made by the Surinam Tirio of Tepoe.
Ref: 8,194.

*piper amalago* L. var. medium (Jacq.) Yuncker (*Piper medium* Jacq.)
USES: **Flower**: Infusion for a vermifuge and aperitive.
Ref: 154.

*piper amapaense* Yuncker
USES: **Leaf**: The French Guiana Palikur use the leaves in a decoction mixed with leaves of *Pothomorphe peltata* or *Stachytarpheta cayennensis* as a wash to relieve dizziness.
Ref: 2.

*piper arboreum* Aublet
USES: **Leaf**: Decoction or cold water infusion used as a treatment for body aches and fevers by the Surinam Tirio. Leaves are heated and used as a band-aid around joints as an antiarthritic, by the Guyana Patamona. Warmed leaves are wrapped around the affected area as a treatment for aches, pains and strains, by the Guyana Patamona. **Leaf and Stem**: Macerated leaves and stems are used as an anti-venom by the Guyana Patamona.
NOTES: In northwestern Amazonia the Yakuna chew the leaf of this plant after overeating, and the Kubeo mix the powdered leaf into food following cases of stomach poisoning (10).
Ref: 8,192,202,237.

*piper attenuatum* Buch.-Ham. ex Wall. (*Piper diffusum* Vahl)
NAME: French Guiana: queuez-a-rat.
USES:  **Root:** Dry root is macerated for a diuretic.
NOTES:  Plant introduced from the East Indies to French Guiana.
Ref:  154.

**Piper augustum** Rudge

USES:  **Whole plant:** Decoction of crushed plant used by the Surinam Tirio as a wash in treatment of heart ailments.  **Stem:** A compress of cut stem is made to treat hernias; a tampon of finely grated stem, which acts as a resolutive, is used for hernias by the French Guiana Wayapi.  **Stem and Leaf:** Decoction is retained in the mouth by the Surinam Wayana to treat bleeding gums.
NOTES:  The Waorani in northwestern Amazonia formerly used this species for blackening the teeth to prevent tooth decay (10).
Ref:  2,8.

**Piper avellanum** (Miq.) D. DC.
USES:  **Leaf:** In NW Guyana, used for cramps, snakebite and stomachache.
Ref:  245.

**Piper bartlingianum** (Miq.) C. DC.

USES:  **Whole plant:** An important admixture to the curare made by the Surinam Tirio, who make a cold water infusion of the crushed plant and then boil the infusion with their *Strychnos* curare preparation to make it more toxic. Used in "óerali" arrow poison by the Surinam Wayana.
Principally the stem is used by the Guyana Waiwai for "balauitu" arrow poison.
NOTES:  In former times, the Surinam Tirio used this plant, perhaps in a decoction, to administer a painless death to aged persons as a form of euthanasia or assisted suicide. The Brazil Tirio probably use this plant, which they call "mami werena", in their curare.
Ref:  8,32,194,202.

**Piper brownsbergense** Yuncker

USES:  **Whole plant:** The Surinam Tirio use a decoction of the crushed plant as a wash to treat heart ailments.  **Leaf:** Dried in the sun and burned in a fire for the smoke which is used as a bath to eject burrowing skin parasites called "black worms" (Surinam Wayana usage).
Ref:  8.

**Piper cyropodan** (Miquel) C. DC.
NAME:  Surinam Tirio: uh-kuh-pu-ru.
USES:  **Leaf:** The Surinam Tirio rub the heated leaf on skin rashes.
Ref:  8.
Piper dumosum Rudge
USES: Stem: A tampon (compress) of the finely grated stem, which has a resolutive action, is employed by the French Guiana Wayapi for treating hernia.
Ref: 2.

Piper cf. glabrescens (Miq.) C. DC.
USES: Leaf: Used for snakebite in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

Piper gleasonii Yuncker
USES: Leaf: A decoction, or sometimes a cold water infusion, is used as a wash by the Surinam Tirio to treat body aches and fevers.
Ref: 8,192.

Piper hostmannianum (Miq.) C. DC.
USES: Leaf: Leaves are warmed and strapped around the affected area as an analgesic, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated leaves are warmed and strapped around the affected area as an anti-arthritic, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves are warmed and used as a poultice for treating muscular aches and pains, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf and Stem: Extract of leaves and stem is used as an anti-venom by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Piper cf. hostmannianum (Miq.) C. DC. (Artanthe berbicensis Miq.)
USES: Leaf: Used against snakebite in NW Guyana.
NOTES: This plant may be, from indirect evidence of similarity with the synonymous A. berbicensis, the taxon designated as “Piper vs. berbicense” in the cited Reference 245.
Ref: 245.

Piper humistratum Gorts & Kramer (Quebitea guianensis Aublet)
USES: Whole plant: An infusion with Byrsonima crassifolia is used in Guyana for treating rattlesnake bites. Root: Used by the French Guiana Galibi against snakebite.
Ref: 7,154.
**Piper marginatum** Jacq. var. *marginatum*


**USES:** Whole plant: Used by Surinam Saramaccan Bush Negroes in a curative herbal bath to remedy stomachache and uterus (or womb) problems. **Root:** Partially cooked in water to yield a remedy for painful uterus. **Leaf:** Boiled in water for stomach cramps, nerve disease and grippe. Decoction is washed on itching caused by insect bites, and on cutaneous eruptions.

**CHEM:** Constituents of essential oil include pinene, limonene, cymene and cineol. Leaf contains the flavone marginatoside (2,110).

Ref: 2,146,193,195,235.

**Piper nigrispicum** C. DC.

**USES:** **Leaf:** Used to treat snakebite in NW Guyana.

Ref: 245.

**Piper nigrum** L.

**NAMES:** Guyana: black pepper, gol-mirch.

**USES:** **Fruit:** Dried or powdered berries are used to treat ailments of the urinogenital system; pulverised green berries are boiled and the liquid is drunk to relieve flatulence (wind); decoction of dried berries mixed with *Justicia secunda* and *Zingiber officinale* is used to treat menstrual pains. **Seed:** In Guyana, mixed with *Allium cepa*, *Allium sativum* and other plants, to cure Guinea worm infections.

**CHEM:** The main volatile alkaloid in this plant is piperine.

Ref: 3,173,190.

**Piper obliquum** Ruiz & Pavon


**USES:** **Stem:** A compress of cut stem is made to treat hernia; a tampon of finely grated stem, which acts as a resolutive, is used for hernia by the French Guiana Wayapi. **Leaf:** Warmed leaves are strapped around the affected area as an analgesic or are wrapped around the affected area as an anti-arthritic, by the Guyana Patamona. Warmed leaves are used as a poultice for treating muscular aches and pains by the Guyana Patamona.

**NOTES:** Dental problems of the Ketchwa people of Ecuador are treated by use of this species (10).

Ref: 2,192,237.

**Piper oblongifolium** (Klotzsch) C. DC.

**NAMES:** FG Creole: radie paopao. FG Palikur: kahboye.

**USES:** **Whole plant:** Crushed and the liquid extract mixed in a little water is used for a toothache remedy by the French Guiana Palikur. **Root and Stem:** The stem and crushed root are rubbed on
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

teeth and gums as a dental analgesic; stem and crushed roots employed in curare preparation by the French Guiana Palikur and Wayapi.
CHEM: The general presence in the genus *Piper* of amides having narcotic and paralyzing properties affecting the buccal (mouth) mucous membranes is possibly correlated with the use of this species by indigenous tribal people as a buccal anaesthetic (2).
Ref: 2.

**Piper poiteanum** Kunth
USES: **Whole plant:** Used as a curare ingredient, as well as a curare admixture plant, by the Surinam Tirio (whose curare is called "kah-mah-ne") and the Surinam Wayana. **Leaf:** The Surinam Tirio place a piece of leaf in cavity in a tooth to relieve toothache pain.
NOTES: This plant is called "arakupani" by the Brazilian Tirio, who use it in the making of their curare.
Ref: 8,14,32,194,202.

**Piper aff. pseudoacreanum** Steyermark
NAME: Surinam Tirio: ah-lah-ku-pah-ne.
USES: **Whole plant:** Cold water infusion of macerated plant is added to the curare preparation of the Surinam Tirio after it has been boiled.
Ref: 8.

**Piper rupununianum** Trel. & Yuncker
NAME: Guyana Patamona: whey-you-yik.
USES: **Leaf:** Warmed leaves are strapped around joints as an analgesic or for treating muscular aches and pains, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Piper submelanostictum** C. DC. var. *amelanostictum* Yuncker
USES: **Stem:** A compress of the cut stem is made to treat hernia; a tampon of finely grated stem is used by the French Guiana Wayapi as a resolutive for hernia.
Ref: 2.

**Piper trichoneuron** (Miq.) C. DC.
USES: Same uses as given for *Piper submelanostictum* var. *amelanostictum*.
Ref: 2.

**Piper sp.**
Ref: 194,237.

**Pothomorphe peltata** (L.) Miq. (*Piper plantagineum* Lam.; *Piper peltatum* L.)


USES: Whole plant: Plant brings bad luck (Guyana Patamona). Plant is boiled and the water used as an herbal bath or for washing the skin for reducing high fevers, by the Guyana Patamona. Plant is heated and tied or wrapped around the head and forehead for treating headaches, by the Guyana Patamona. Root: Remedy for uterus pain is derived from partially cooked root. Macerated in water for a diuretic. Leaf: Infusion is sudorific; in a compress applied to the head for a prolonged period of time as an antineuralgic; macerated leaves and crushed stem are mixed with leaves of *Piper amapaense* for a headache remedy. Mixed with coconut oil or castor oil and rubbed on painful or swollen joints; ground leaves put on cuts; boiled for gripe and stomach pain; warm poultice is anti-inflammatory. Warmed leaves are tied to the head or forehead to relieve headache, and tied to other areas to relieve hernia pain and arthritis pain. Decoction used in Guyana as a purgative to clean out the uterus. In a poultice with oil for bruises and swellings. The Guyana Warrau mix the leaves with leaves of *Clibadium* for fish poison. In NW Guyana, leaves are used for abscesses, colds and coughs, hemorrhage, headache, swellings, and for cleaning the womb and tubes. Seed: Yields an essential oil ingested with sugar for stomach atony.

CHEM: Plant contains chavicine, piperine and lignans.
Ref: 2,3,16,154,190,193,195,202,237,245.

**PLANTAGINACEAE**

**Plantago lanceolata** L.

NAME: French Guiana: plantain.
USES: Leaf: Used in French Guiana to make an eyewash called "eau de plantain" to treat ophthalmia.
NOTES: Plant introduced from Europe to French Guiana.
Ref: 154,168.

**Plantago major** L.

NAME: FG Creole: plantain.
USES: Leaf: Juice extracted from warmed leaves is placed in the eye to reduce the irritations of trauma or conjunctivitis; decoction of leaves mixed with leaves of *Chenopodium ambrosioides* is
consumed by women to relieve menopausal troubles, and drunk to soothe digestion; crushed young leaves are applied to the ulcers of leishmaniasis.
NOTES: An undetermined French Guiana species of *Plantago* provides leaves which are dried and made into an infusion for washing bruised eyes (4). The Tikuna of Colombia use the leaves as an ingredient for a fever and bronchitis remedy (10).
Ref: 2,173.

**PLUMBAGINACEAE**

*Plumbago indica* L.
USES: Root and Leaf: Vesicant.
Ref: 154.

*Plumbago scandens* L. (*Plumbago rosea* L.)
USES: Root and Leaf: Yields a juice used to cauterize warts. Root: Juice used to treat running ulcers.
Ref: 154.

**POACEAE**

*Avena sativa* L.
NAME: Guyana: oats.
USES: Fruit: Oats are lightly parched, pounded and made into a tea for remedying retention of urine, being an old but effective cure in Guyana.
Ref: 190.

*Axonopus anceps* (Mez) Hitch.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: pam-poui-thou-yik.
USES: Leaf: Juice from macerated leaves is used to treat conjunctivitis or as an anti-inflammatory into the eyes, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

*Axonopus compressus* (Sw.) Beauv.
USES: Whole plant: Used by the Surinam Saramaccan as an ingredient in a curative herbal bath. Used to treat heart problems in NW Guyana.
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

Bambusa vulgaris Schrader ex J.C. Wendl.
USES: Stem: The French Guiana Palikur burn bits of dried stem for the acrid smoke which is a mosquito repellent. Used for rheumatism in NW Guyana. Shoot used to treat abscesses and malaria in NW Guyana. Leaf: Boiled leaves used as a fever bath. In Guyana, a decoction of boiled leaves is used by women as a "clean-out" for dilation and curettage, and also to aid the expulsion of the afterbirth of women and cows. Boiled as a hot tea for fever, which induces profuse perspiration. In NW Guyana, used to treat heart problems and malaria, and to ease birth.
Ref: 2,3,159,190,195,245.

Chloris radiata (L.) Sw. (Cynosurus scoparius Lam.)
NAMES: French Guiana: chiendent, pied de poule.
USES: Part unspecified: Diuretic.
Ref: 168.

Coix lacryma-jobi L.
USES: Root: Infusion for a vermifuge.
Ref: 195.

Cymbopogon citratus (DC.) Stapf
USES: Whole plant: Used to retard perspiration; ingredient in a Surinam Saramaccan herbal bath. Root: Used as contraceptive in NW Guyana. Leaf: Decoction for coughs, fever, sore throat and grippe. Boiled with Bambusa vulgaris leaves and Zingiber officinale for a liquid drunk to treat fever andague. Boiled with leaves of Tripogandra serrulata, Persea americana and Scoparia dulcis for tea to treat jaundice. Decocted with Annona glabra leaves and banana-stalk (Musa x paradisiaca) for an emetic and to rid chest of mucus. As a digestive; decoction to reduce or increase perspiration; for urinary conditions involving painful cramps. Used for coughs and colds, fevers, malaria and venereal disease in NW Guyana. Leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-asthmatic, as an anti-pyretic, as an anti-viral and as a treatment for bronchitis, for colds, for coughing, and for tuberculosis, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves are boiled, and the water used as a beverage and a tonic, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves are boiled and the water used as a treatment for influenza, by the Guyana Patamona.
CHEM: Lemon grass oil has antispasmodic and antiseptic properties, and is commercially valuable in the perfume industry (3).
Ref: 2,3,4,14,159,193,195,237,245.
**Cymbopogon nardus** (L.) Rendle (*Andropogon citriodorus* Hort. ex Desf.; *Andropogon schoenanthus* Thunb.)


**USES:** Leaf: A tea is made, with alcoholic spirits or sweet spirits of nitre, to treat colds; infusion to treat diarrhoea spasms, as a stimulant and antispasmodic; infusion is sudorific and an excellent digestive. Leaves used to flavor other teas.

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

---

**Cynodon dactylon** (L.) Pers. (*Panicum dactylon* (L.) Pers.)


**USES:** Whole plant: For an aperient tea. Boiled with *Chamaesyce hirta* for remedying diarrhoea and biliousness. Decoction of whole plant used to treat anuria ("stoppage of water"), stomachache, and in baths to prevent itching.

**CHEM:** Extracts have a high phagocytic index; shoot apex may produce cyanogenetic glycosides (3).

**NOTES:** In Rwanda this plant is used to treat gonorrhoea and conjunctivitis (77).

**Ref:** 3,159,190.

---

**Dactyloctenium aegyptium** (L.) Willd.

**NAMES:** Surinam Sranan: mangrasi, man grasi.

**USES:** Whole plant: In a decoction for lumbago. Leaf: Infusion mixed with seeds of *Cajanus cajan* used to accelerate childbirth. Decoction of leaves with *Scoparia dulcis* for dysentery.

**Ref:** 159,195.

---

**Eleusine indica** (L.) Gaertner (*Cynosurus indicus* L.)


**USES:** Whole plant: Infusion as aperitive and refresher; antidiarrhoeic. Decoction is diuretic, used to treat bladder disorders, relieve pain caused by straining the abdominal muscles, and is applied to open wounds to stop bleeding. Decoction is also used with *Desmodium* sp. as a tonic. Decoction for children's convulsions. In Guyana, the whole plant is boiled with black sage for use in a sitting bath to treat fevers, colds, malaria, and for post-childbirth cleansing of a mother. Leaf: Macerated in a decoction applied to skin rashes by the Surinam Tirio. In NW Guyana, used as contraceptive, for hemorrhage and for loss of hair.

**CHEM:** Contains cyanogenetic heterosides (111).

**Ref:** 3,8,12,149,154,159,168,234,245.

---

**Eragrostis tephrosanthos** Schult.
NAME: Guyana: love grass.
USES: Whole plant: To treat fevers.
Ref: 159.

**Guadua latifolia** (Humb. & Bonpl.) Kunth
USES: Stem: Arrow poison is prepared for hunting large game, the poison causing a continuous flow of blood which possibly may be attributed to anticoagulant properties. Stem used in a preparation to counteract Caladium poisoning.
NOTES: An undetermined species of Guadua, which is known in Guyana as "raffu", is used for arrow poison (16).
Ref: 2,159.

**Guadua cf. latifolia** (Humb. & Bonpl.) Kunth
NAME: FG Wayampi: kulumuli.
USES: Stem: In French Guiana the wood is used to make arrow points which have the property to cause the blood to flow continuously without clotting, from a wounded animal.
CHEM: Material from Trois Sauts, French Guiana has been phytochemically analyzed (240).
Ref: 240.

**Gynerium sagittatum** (Aublet) P. Beauv.
USES: Stem: Used to treat snakebite in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

**Ichnanthus panicoides** P. Beauv.
USES: Whole plant: Cold water infusion of crushed plant used as a wash to treat fevers by the Surinam Tirio. Smoke from burning plant is inhaled by the Surinam Wayana to treat stomachache.
Ref: 8,159.

**Olyra latifolia** L.
USES: Leaf: Blades are macerated and applied to the cut umbilical cord to prevent infection, by the Guyana Patamona. Flower: Macerated lemmas are used for washing the head to get rid of dandruff, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.
**Olyra micrantha** Kunth  
USES: **Leaf**: Macerated blades are applied to babies’ umbilical cord to prevent infection and to speed up the drying process so that it can easily fall off after birth, by the Guyana Patamona. Mashed dry leaves are also used as an antimicrobial for the umbilical cord of babies, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**Oplismenus** sp.  
USES: **Whole plant**: Plant is ground into a powder, and used as an anti-infective, by the Guyana Patamona. Plant is ground into a powder, dissolved in water, and drunk as an anti-inflammatory, by the Guyana Patamona. **Root**: Root is ground into a powder, mixed with water and drunk as an antibacterial, as an antidiarrheal, and for coughing or for sore throat, by the Guyana Patamona. **Stolon**: Stolon is washed and chewed as an antipyretic or as a medication for colds, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**Oryza sativa** L.  
USES: **Fruit**: Rice grains are cooked and consumed to treat impotence, and the rice-water given as a treatment for children's bedwetting.  
Ref: 195.

**Panicum pilosum** Swartz  
USES: **Leaf**: Used to ease birth in NW Guyana.  
Ref: 245.

**Panicum rudgei** Roem. & Schult.  
USES: **Stolon**: Stolon is boiled with water and drunk as an antipyretic, by the Guyana Patamona. Chewed stolon is used as a medicament for colds by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**Pariana** sp.  
NAME: Surinam Wayana: ku-mu.  
USES: **Whole plant**: Smoke from burning plant is inhaled by the Surinam Wayana as a treatment for general aches.  
Ref: 8,159.
Pharus latifolius L.
USES: Whole plant: Smoke from burning plant is inhaled by the Surinam Wayana as a sedative when a person is frightened by a chance encounter with a wild animal. Leaf: Crushed leaves are mixed with red paste from Bixa aril and rubbed on the cheeks by the Surinam Tirio to relieve headache.
Ref: 8,159.

Saccharum officinarum L.
USES: Stem: Juice used to treat snakebite and wounds from poison arrows. Juice mixed with infusion of "wallaba" (Eperua sp.) to treat urari (curare) poisoning by the Guyana Macusi. Yields sugar; finely ground sugar is used for eye diseases in French Guiana by blowing it into a leucoma of the cornea. Sugar in a mix rubbed onto rheumatism-affected areas. Whole sugar for vermifuge. Powdered sugar for a detersive. Sugar cane eaten for a blood-cleanser, digestive and to prevent dental cavities. In Guyana, granulated sugar is sometimes placed on a scald or burn for quick relief. Sap: Used for coughs and colds as well as to treat snakebite in NW Guyana. Leaf: Decoction of young leaves is used for urinary conditions.
Ref: 7,154,159,190,193,195,245.

Streptogyna americana Hubbard
 NAME: Surinam Tirio: ki-kwe weh-nah-ru.
USES: Whole plant: Smoke from burning plant is inhaled by a Surinam Tirio child who has become sick because "father has killed a jaguar".
Ref: 8.

Vetiveria zizanioides (L.) Nash (Andropogon squarrosus sensu auct., non L. fil.)
USES: Stem: Infusion used for a tonic and emmenagogue in French Guiana.
Ref: 154,159.

Zea mays L.
 NAMES: French Guiana and Surinam: mais. Surinam: karoe-barba, karu-barba, maiskolf-baard (stigma); malata karoe (half-ripe maize); karoe, karu.
USES: Fruit: Infusion drunk for diarrhoea. Half-ripe fruit in an infusion for a male aphrodisiac. Flower: Stigmas plucked from corncob are cooked in water as a treatment for rheumatism, urinary complaints, bladder cramps, and to prevent urinary stones. Green corncob is cooked in water, which is drunk for dietary slimming, to reduce fat. Young corncob is used in a decoction for albuminuria.
PODOSTEMACEAE

_Apinagia staheliana_ (Went) van Royen

**NAMES:** Surinam: dang wiwiri, dan wiwi.

**USES:** _Whole plant:_ Powdered and mixed with carapa oil (see _Carapa guianensis_) for use as a hair growth stimulator.

Ref: 193.

POLYGALACEAE

_Polygala timoutou_ Aublet

**NAME:** French Guiana: timoutou.

**USES:** _Whole plant:_ For an emmenagogue and diuretic.

Ref: 154.

_Securidaca paniculata_ L.C. Rich.

**USES:** _Stem:_ The inner layer of bark adherent to the woody part of the stem is made into a decoction administered as a dental analgesic to treat toothache and as a mouthwash by the French Guiana Wayapi. Raw sap expressed from the stem is used to soothe a dermatosis characterized by spots on the face and body. A decoction of the grated stem is used as a mouthwash for a dental analgesic by the French Guiana Wayapi.

**CHEM:** Extracts of leaf, stem and root exhibit antiamoebic, antifungal and antibacterial activity. Material from Trois Sauts, French Guiana has been phytochemically analyzed (240).

Ref: 2,240.

POLYGONACEAE

_Coccoloba excelsa_ Bentham


**USES:** _Stem:_ Water from the cut liana is dripped into aching ears by the Surinam Wayana. The Surinam Akuriyo rub the rasped bark onto ant bites.

Ref: 8,192.
**Coccoloba marginata** Bentham
USES: **Stem**: Bark employed in treatment of diarrhea in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

**Coccoloba uvifera** (L.) L.
USES: **Whole plant**: Yields an astringent juice, known as "Jamaica kino", used to treat diarrhea and dysentery. **Stem**: Decoction of bark for intestinal disorders.
Ref: 9,112,154,192,195.

**Polygonum acuminatum** Kunth
USES: **Stem**: Sap extracted from the crushed stem is prepared into a gel with hot water, and utilized by the French Guiana Palikur as an eyewash to remedy ophthalmic inflammations and ear trouble.
Ref: 2,211.

**Triplaris weigeltiana** (Reichb.) O. Kuntze (**Triplaris surinamensis** Cham.)
USES: **Stem**: Decoction of the bark used for dysentery in Surinam.
Ref: 192,195,211.

**POLYPODIACEAE**

**Polypodium adnatum** Kunze ex Klotzsch
USES: **Stem**: Bark used to treat diarrhea in NW Guyana. **Flower**: Bud employed in treatment of whooping cough in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

**PONTEDERIACEAE**
**Eichhornia crassipes** (Martius) Solms-Laubach
USES: **Leaf**: The French Guiana Wayapi prepare the inflated petioles in a decoction for a febrifuge bath, and eat the petioles as an antidiarrhoeic.
Ref: 2.

**PORTULACACEAE**

**Portulaca mucronata** Link
NAMES: FG Creole: croupier, pourpier.
USES: **Whole plant**: Infusion is antidiabetic and digestive; as an emollient; crushed and mixed with grease or oil into an unguent which is rubbed on sprained or torn muscles; makes a refreshing purgative drink, which also serves to diminish the leakages of albuminurta.
Ref: 2.

**Portulaca oleracea** L.
NAMES: French: pourpier. FG Creole: croupier, pourpier. FG Wayapi: akusinami. Surinam: postelein. Surinam Hindu: Ionia. Surinam Javan: kroko. Surinam Saramaccan Bush Negro: bembe. Surinam Sranan: gronposren. USES: **Whole plant**: Same uses as those given for *Portulaca mucronata*. Used by the Surinam Saramaccan as an ingredient in a curative herbal bath. Plant is boiled and the water used for treating arthritis or muscle pains by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from macerated plant is applied as an antiseptic to cuts and bruises to stop bleeding and to heal wounds, by the Guyana Patamona. **Stem and Leaf**: Crushed in water for an hypotensive by the French Guiana Palikur. **Leaf**: In Surinam, leaves mixed with sugar or soap are applied onto mature abscesses. In French Guiana an infusion of leaves is used as a cholagogue, to treat renal colic, and to prepare the body before taking a purgative. Crushed and mixed with coconut oil and vinegar, and placed on sprained limbs.
CHEM: Plant contains abundant noradrenaline and has hypoglycemic properties.
Ref: 2,4,12,14,193,195,237.

**Portulaca aff. pilosa** L.
USES: **Whole plant**: A lightly salted infusion is employed as a remedy for hernia, and to ease the pain of strains.
Ref: 2.

**PROTEACEAE**
**Panopsis sessilifolia** (L.C. Rich.) Sandwith


**USES:** Stem and Leaf: Decoction of crushed leaves and rasped inner bark is drunk by the Surinam Tirio as a treatment for exhaustion and body aches. Stem: Cold water infusion of the rasped inner bark is used by the Surinam Wayana as a wash for the treatment of headaches.

**NOTES:** The Tikuna of northwestern Amazonia report that this tree is toxic, and that the most potent poison is found in the flower, a decoction of which was formerly employed to remedy coughs (10).

Ref: 8,192.

**Trattinickia burserifolia** Martius


**USES:** Stem: Yields a gum which, in Surinam, is probably used against asthma and other chest conditions. Species of *Protium* are said to be used in Surinam for the same purposes as *Trattinickia*.

Ref: 192,195.

**PUNICACEAE**

**Punica granatum** L.


**USES:** Root: Fresh root-bark for a vermifuge. Stem: In Guyana, a decoction of the boiled bark is drunk to instantly relieve diarrhoea. Fruit: Unripe fruit is employed to relieve diarrhoea, but is less effective than the bark preparation. Rind of fruit in a detersive gargle, or the rind in an infusion drunk for diarrhoea and stomach problems.

**CHEM:** Plant contains piperidine alkaloids (in bark, wood and leaf), anthocyanins (in seed coat), and the tannins punicalagin and punicalin (in peel of fruit).

Ref: 3,154,195.

**QUIINACEAE**

**Lacunaria jenmanii** (Oliver) Ducke


**USES:** Stem: Inner bark is rasped in a decoction drunk as a treatment for stomachache by the Surinam Tirio. Leaf: The Surinam Wayana drink a decoction as a treatment for kidney pain.

Ref: 8,192.
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

RAPATEACEAE

**Rapatea paludosa** Aublet

**NAMES:** Surinam Tirio: anansiwawae, tau-tau, tow-tow.

**USES:** Stem: Decoction used as an admixture to the curare made by the Surinam Tirio. Leaf: The French Guiana Wayapi grind young leaves in a decoction or maceration as a remedy to combat shortness of breath in pulmonary complaints. Exudate used to treat hair loss in NW Guyana.

**CHEM:** This plant accumulates very high levels of aluminum, up to 13,600 parts per million, which may be present in the soil.

*Ref:* 2,8,194,245.

RHAMNACEAE

**Gouania blanchetiana** Miquel

**NAMES:** Surinam Tirio: ah-lu-gah-lu-gah. Surinam Wayana: me-sah.

**USES:** Whole plant: The Surinam Wayana rub the sap onto the skin as a treatment for body aches.

*Ref:* 8.

**Gouania striata** Rich. (*Gouania domingensis* sensu Aublet, non L.)

**NAME:** French Guiana: mabi.

**USES:** Stem: Wood is bitter and antiseptic, used in a diuretic beverage sold in Cayenne, French Guiana under the name "mabi".

*Ref:* 154.

**Zizyphus jujuba** Mill.

**NAMES:** Surinam Hindustani: bedara. Surinam Sranan: olijf.

**USES:** Leaf: Decoction used for flushing bile from the system.

*Ref:* 195.

RHIZOPHORACEAE

**Rhizophora mangle** L.

USES:  Root: Used to treat diarrhea in NW Guyana. Stem: A bark decoction is used to treat frequent dysentery, diarrhea, micturition and bladder diseases in Guyana. Bark is febrifuge, astringent, rich in tannin, used in a decoction in French Guiana for haemorrhages, and in gargles to remedy angina. Bark used to treat diarrhea in NW Guyana.
NOTE: This is the plant referred to in Ref: 7 as *Rhizophora gymnorrhiza* L.  
Ref: 7,9,154,192,195,245.

**ROSACEAE**

*Prunus myrtifolia* (L.) Urb.
USES:  Stem: A decoction of grated bark is used as a pectoral remedy for colds by the French Guiana Wayapi.  
Ref: 2,192.

**RUBIACEAE**

*Amaioeua* cf. *brevidentata* Steyerm.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: mo-rey-ee-yik.
USES:  Bark: Inner bark is boiled with water and drunk as an anthelmintic by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

*Borreria latifolia* (Aublet) K. Schum.  (*Spermacoce caerulescens* Aublet)
USES:  Part unspecified: As a vomitive in French Guiana.  

*Borreria verticillata* (L.) G. Meyer
NAME:  FG Galibi: maluwa.
USES:  Stem and Leaf: Crushed and heated, with the addition of some salt, and used as a plaster to expel sand fleas.  
CHEM:  Aerial parts contain the indole alkaloids barrerine and borreverine, and an essential oil which contains the sesquiterpenes guaene, caryophyllene and cadiene (114). Root contains emetine; root-bark contains the iridoids daphylloside, asperuloside, feretoside, methyl desacetylasperulosidate, desacetylasperuloside, asperulosidic acid and desacetylasperulosidic acid (115).  
Ref: 2.
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

**Capirona decorticans** Spruce (*Capirona surinamensis* Bremekamp)
USES: Stem: Bark is grated in a maceration swabbed onto furuncles and cutaneous eruptions by the French Guiana Wayapi. The French Guiana Palikur treat head injuries and headaches with a cataplasm of grated bark containing the sap. Inner bark is rasped and either a decoction or cold water infusion of it is used as a wash to treat fevers and chills.
Ref: 2,8.

**Cephaelis ipecacuanha** (Brot.) Richard
USES: Root: Used as an emetic in Guyana.
CHEM: Contains emetine, an emetic and amoebicide (166).
NOTE: The early history of ipecac, derived from the roots of various plants, is related by Balfour (1873), who noted that various kinds of ipecac were differentiated, including annulated or Lisbon (*Cephaelis ipecacuanha*), striated or Peruvian (*Psychotria emetica*) and undulated (*Richardsonia scabra*).
Ref: 7,241.

**Chiococca alba** (L.) Hitch. (*Chiococca racemosa* L.)
USES: Root: A drastic purgative.
Ref: 154.

**Chiococca brachiata** Ruiz & Pavon (*Chiococca anguifuga* Martius)
USES: Root: A drastic, violent emetic used in treating hydropsy.
Ref: 154.

**Chomelia tenuiflora** Bentham
USES: Stem: Axillary spines have a necrotic or deadening effect which is made use of by the French Guiana Wayapi as an anaesthetic when piercing the ears of infants for earrings.
Ref: 2.

**Cinchona** sp.
USES: Bark: Macerated bark is warmed and used as a medicament for sores. Part unspecified: Used as an antimalarial by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.
**Coffea arabica** L.
USES: Seed: Infusion of green seeds ("beans") contains caffeine and is drunk in French Guiana for remedying migraine headaches. Infusion contains tannin, which is useful as a febrifuge; for gout. Ref: 154.

**Coffea liberica** Hiern
USES: Leaf: Used to treat headaches and sore eyes in NW Guyana. Ref: 245.

**Coussarea** cf. **paniculata** (Vahl) Standl.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: mik-yik.
USES: Bark: Inner bark is scraped, and the juice is used as a medicament for “bush yaws”, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from the bark is warmed and used for eczema and dermatoses by the Guyana Patamona. Inner bark is scraped, warmed and used as a medicament for sores by the Guyana Patamona. Ref: 237.

**Coutarea hexandra** (Jacq.) K. Schum. (*Coutarea speciosa* Aublet; *Portlandia hexandra* Jacq.)
CHEM: The bitter properties of this plant are similar to those of quinine as a malaria remedy. Ref: 2,9,154,190,210.

**Duroia** cf. **amapana** Steyerm.
USES: Stem: Scrapings are used to make a cold water infusion employed by the Surinam Tirio as a wash to treat fevers. Ref: 8.

**Duroia aquatica** (Aublet) Bremekamp
USES: Leaf: Among the Surinam Wayana, leaves are boiled in a closed pot and the escaping steam is allowed to bathe the testicles as a treatment for hernia. Ref: 8.
Eriothalis fruticosa L.
USES: Stem: Wood is resinous with an agreeable odor, and is made into torches. Properties of the resin should be investigated.
Ref: 154.

Faramea guianensis (Aublet) Bremekamp (Cephaelis evea DC.; Evea guianensis Aublet)
USES: Whole plant: The French Guiana Wayapi roast the whole plant in a piece of pottery in order to smoke and desiccate the ulcers of leishmaniasis. Root: Vomitive.
Ref: 2,154.

Faramea lourteigiana Steyerm.
USES: Root: Root used for a tonic. Root is macerated in rum with the roots of Ptychopetalum olacoides and Strychnos erichsonii and drunk as an aphrodisiac by the French Guiana Boni and Creole people. The Surinam Wayana soak the crushed root in rum for three months and drink a tincture of it as an aphrodisiac, said to be extremely effective and sold commercially in Paramaribo, Surinam and Cayenne, French Guiana.
Ref: 2,8,16.

Faramea multiflora A. Rich. var. multiflora
USES: Whole plant or Leaf: Decoction used in a vapor bath as a febrifuge by the French Guiana Wayapi.
Ref: 3.

Genipa americana L.
USES: Root: Decoction in a purgative for gonorrhoea. Stem: Bark in a plaster applied to ulcers; bark for diarrhoea. Stem and Fruit: Fruit and rasped bark are rubbed by the Surinam Akuriyo on black spots that sometimes develop on the skin. Fruit: Edible, and made into a refreshing drink. Pulp used by the French Guiana Boni in tattooing. Part unspecified: Used for treating ulcers by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.
CHEM: Fruit and seed contain the terpene genipine as an active ingredient. Fruit contains malic acid, genipic acid and genipininc acid; leaf contains geniposidinic acid, an iridoid glucoside; seed
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

contains caffeine (8, 116,117,118,154). The indoloquinoline alkaloid cryptolepine is an active compound isolated from material collected near Asindopo village, Suriname (244).

NOTES: A blue-black staining tincture of the fruit is used for decorative body painting by Amerindians. The Guyana Macushi make reddish paint by mixing this plant with Humiria balsamifera var. floribunda, Protium heptaphyllum subsp. heptaphyllum and possibly Arrabidaea chica.

Ref: 2,7,8,154,192,210,238.

Genipa spruceana Steyerm.
USES: Same uses as those given for Genipa americana. Bark: Bark is scraped and used as a poultice for sores by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf and Fruit: Leaves and young fruits are crushed and used as insecticide by the Guyana Patamona. Fruit: Young fruit is used as remedy for dermatoses by the Guyana Patamona. Young fruits are crushed and used as an antifungal by the Guyana Patamona. Young fruit is cut in halves and used for treating ringworm infection or for treating eczema by the Guyana Patamona. Pulp of young fruit is used for making tattoos or for treating sunburn, by the Guyana Patamona.

NOTES: The stain derived from the fruit is markedly inferior to that derived from Genipa americana.

Ref: 2,237.

Geophila repens (L). I.M. Johnston (Geophila herbacea (Jacq.) K. Schum.)
USES: Whole plant: The Surinam Tirio drink a decoction of the boiled plant as a treatment for coughs. Leaf: The Surinam Wayana drink a decoction of the boiled plant as a treatment for coughs. Fruit: Crushed and rubbed on facial dermatitis consisting of white spots, and considered as an effective antifungal agent by the French Guiana Palikur. Used to treat skin fungi in NW Guyana. Seed: Reputedly edible.

NOTES: The Ketchwa of Ecuador use this plant as an antifungal agent.

Ref: 8,245.

Geophila tenuis (Muell. Arg.) Standley
USES: Whole plant: An emollient cataplasm is applied with cotton to extract painful spines embedded in the skin. Fruit: The French Guiana Wayapi rub one or a few ripe fruits on the skin to extract spines.

Ref: 2.

Guettarda acreana Krause
USES: Stem: Bark contains a strong alkaloid used in the preparation of curare poison in Guyana. Part unspecified: Used in curare poison by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana,
Guettarda macrantha Bentham
USES: Leaf: Decoction is drunk by the French Guiana Palikur to alleviate massive headaches.
Ref: 2.

Isertia coccinea (Aublet) J.F. Gmelin (Guettarda coccinea Aublet)
NAME: Surinam: loto-hoedoe.
USES: Stem: Bark is febrifuge. Leaf: Decoction used in French Guiana in a bath, compress or douche to treat edema.

Ixora javanica (Blume) DC.
NAME: French Guiana: buisson ardent.
USES: Leaf and Flower: Used in a cure-all infusion.
Ref: 4.

Manettia coccinea (Aublet) Willd.
NAME: FG Creole: macoudia.
USES: Stem and Leaf: Aerial parts of the plant are made into a decoction used for a febrifuge by the French Guiana Wayapi.
CHEM: The genus Manettia contains the iridoid asperuline.
NOTES: The Achual and Huambisa Jivaro of Peru chew the fruit for a toothache remedy (10).
Ref: 2.

Mitracarpus sp.
USES: Part unspecified: Emeto-cathartic; vomitive; ipecac substitute. A tisane yielding good results in treating tertiary gonorrhea is used in French Guiana.
Ref: 154.

Morinda citrifolia L.
USES: Leaf: In Guyana it is macerated alone, or mixed with Pothomorphe peltata, in coconut oil for an external rub to relieve pain of the joints including arthritic and rheumatoid pains. Fruit: Mixed with vinegar to smooth a turgid spleen.
Ref: 3,172,195.

Morinda tinctoria Roxb. (Morinda royoc Blanco)
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

**Name:** French Guiana: royoc.
**Uses:** Root: Purgative.
**Notes:** Plant introduced from the Philippines and India to French Guiana.
**Ref:** 154.

**Ophiorrhiza mungos** L.
**Names:** French Guiana: mungo, racine d'or.
**Uses:** Root: An alexiteric used in a decoction at 30 parts per 1000.
**Notes:** Plant introduced from Java to French Guiana.
**Ref:** 154.

**Palicourea guianensis** Aublet
**Uses:** Bark and Leaf: Bark and leaves are boiled and the water is applied to the affected area for muscular aches and pains, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark and leaves are warmed, and used as a poultice to treat sprains, by the Guyana Patamona. Stem: Rasped bark is rubbed on aching arms by the Surinam Wayana. Leaf: Crushed in a decoction used as a wash for headache by the Surinam Tirio. Leaves are used as bedding for children who wet their beds, by the Guyana Patamona.
**Notes:** The Cayapa Indians of Ecuador make an extract of the plant for a febrifuge drink (148).
**Ref:** 8,192,237.

**Palicourea rigida** Kunth
**Uses:** Whole plant: Plant is boiled and the water used for washing the skin to break the “evil-eye” spell, by the Guyana Patamona. Plant is macerated in water and used for an herbal bath, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark: Bark is boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-menorrhagic, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf: Leaves are boiled, and the water is allowed to cool, and drunk for colds, by the Guyana Patamona.
**Ref:** 237.

**Psychotria bahiensis** DC.
**Uses:** Leaf: Warmed leaves are used as an emollient, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated leaves in water are used for washing the skin as treatment for high fevers, by the Guyana Patamona.
**Ref:** 237.

**Psychotria** cf. **iodotricha** Muell. Arg.
**Name:** Surinam Tirio: puh-fwe-muh.
**Uses:** Leaf: Made into a decoction applied with cotton to painful teeth by the Surinam Tirio.
**Ref:** 8.
Psychotria ligularis (Rudge) Steyerm. var. carapichea (Poir.) Steyerm. (Cephaelis guianensis (Aublet) Standley)
USES: Part unspecified: For an ipecacuanha substitute.
Ref: 168.

Psychotria mapourioides DC. (Mapouria guianensis Aublet; Psychotria nitida Willd.)
NAMES: French Guiana: mapou, mapounier.
USES: Leaf: Decocted in a lotion for chronic ophthalmia.
Ref: 154.

Psychotria officinalis (Aublet) Sandwith
USES: Leaf: In 18th century French Guiana, a tea for the treatment of asthma was made from the leaves. Infusion or decoction is pectoral, aromatic.
Ref: 8,149,154,192,210.

Psychotria platypoda DC.
USES: Leaf: Leaves are either warmed in a flame or macerated in water, and applied as a cataplasm to soothe furuncles.
Ref: 2.

Psychotria poeppigiana Muell. Arg.
USES: Whole plant: Decoction of crushed, boiled plant used as wash for headaches by the Surinam Tirio. The Surinam Tirio use a decoction of the crushed plant as a wash for sprains, rheumatism, muscular pains and contusions. Stem: Rased bark is rubbed on a certain skin rash known as "poispoisi" by the Surinam Wayana. Inflorescence: Red, sap-filled bracts are used for an antalgic to treat earache, administered by dropping the sap into the ear canal. Inflorescence in an antitussive decoction to remedy whooping cough.
Ref: 2,8,192.

Psychotria poeppigiana subsp. barcellana (Muell. Arg.) Steyerm.
USES: Leaf: Used to treat colds and coughs in NW Guyana. Flower: Used to treat colds and coughs in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.
Psychotria racemosa (Aublet) Raeuschel
USES: Leaf: The Surinam Tirio boil the leaves in a decoction to treat fevers.
Ref: 8.

Psychotria ulginosa Swartz
NAME: Guyana Patamona: ebe-moung-yik.
USES: Whole plant: This plant is considered, by the Guyana Patagona, to be a very bad plant to handle, especially for young children.
Ref: 237.

Psychotria ulviformis Steyerm.
USES: Whole plant: Applied as an alexiteric cataplasm on poisonous snakebite; macerated in rum or olive oil for snakebite; decoction as a wash for a febrifuge. Leaf: The Surinam Wayana use an infusion as a wash to treat parasitic "black skin worm" affliction. Surinam Tirio use crushed leaves in infusion as wash to reduce swelling eyes; also, the sap of warm leaves is squeezed into the eyes.
Ref: 2,8.

Psychotria spp.
USES: Leaf: Surinam Tirio children who have a fever "because their father killed a tapir" are washed in a decoction of the boiled leaves. The Surinam Tirio use a decoction to treat headache.
Ref: 8.

Sabicea cinerea Aublet
NAME: FG Palikur: bakutkigl.
USES: Whole plant: The French Guiana Palikur bathe infants in a decoction to strengthen their limbs.
Ref: 2.

Sabicea glabrescens Bentham
USES: Whole plant: Used for female sterility and in treatment of hemorrhage in NW Guyana. Fruit: Raw fruit, in a decoction by itself or mixed with aerial parts of the plant, is an antidyssenteric remedy; also used as an antispasmodic especially to treat colic and stomach pain by the French Guiana Wayapi.
Ref: 2,245.

Sabicea villosa Willd. ex Roemer & Schultes
USES: Same uses as given for *Sabicea glabrescens*.
NOTES: In the Rio Apoporis area of Colombia a leaf infusion is used to remedy malaria (10).
Ref: 2.

*Sipanea pratensis* Aublet (*Virecta pratensis* (Aublet) Vahl)
USES: **Whole plant**: In Guyana, used as an astringent and to treat ulcers and skin eruptions. In French Guiana, used in astringent teas and to clean the sores of gonorrhoea. **Stem**: Grated in a maceration for an eyewash to remedy conjunctivitis. **Leaf**: French Guiana Palikur use the sap in a preparation to treat dog's cataract.
Ref: 2,7,149,154,210.

*Spermacoce* spp.
USES: **Whole plant**: Used to treat syphilis in Guyana.
Ref: 7.

*Uncaria gambier* Roxburgh
NAME: Surinam Malayan: gambir.
USES: **Leaf**: In Surinam, an infusion is applied to remedy dysentery; powdered preparation used for nasal conditions.
Ref: 14.

*Uncaria guianensis* (Aublet) Gmelin (*Ourouparia guianensis* Aublet)
USES: **Whole plant**: Infusion is drunk to remedy dysentery. Burned and powdered, then used on wounds. **In a gargle** to remedy mouth ulcers. **Leaf**: Used in treatment of tuberculosis and for coughs and colds in NW Guyana.
CHEM: Plant contains tannins (195).
Ref: 154,193,195,210,245.

*Uncaria tomentosa* (Willd. ex Roem. & Schult.) DC.
USES: **Whole plant**: In a gargle to remedy mouth ulcers.
Ref: 154.

**RUTACEAE**
**Aegle marmelos** Correa
Uses: Fruit: In Surinam, the unripe astringent fruit is sometimes employed against dysentery.
Ref: 14.

**Citrus aurantiifolia** (Christm.) Swingle
Uses: Root: Decoction for an anthelmintic, contraceptive and for treating venereal disease. Roots are boiled, the water mixed with alcohol, and drunk to abort a fetus up to six weeks old, by the Guyana Patamona. Used for treatment of hemorrhage and for venereal disease in NW Guyana. Leaf: Used three ways in French Guiana: crushed in a maceration for headache; mixed with leaves of *Begonia glabra* and * Ocimum campechianum* to bathe very hot feet; mixed with *Renealmia guianensis* leaves and drunk by the French Guiana Wayapi to induce an abortion. Leaves are boiled and the water used as a medication for colds, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruit: In Guyana, the juice is taken with salt to treat diarrhea. In Guyana, juice is used to treat "viccis", a fever that leads to a desire to sleep and uncontrollably relaxed digestive muscles. Lime juice is drunk to prevent dysentery, and used for cleansing wounds. In Surinam, juice is mixed with oil and rubbed on the stomach to relieve sagging muscles of the sexual organs. Juice from the fruit is mixed with a pinch of salt and drunk for chest colds and fever, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from the fruit is mixed with grated garlic and some water and drunk for snakebite, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from the fruit is used for making a tonic, by the Guyana Patamona. Used for treatment of ground itch and for dandruff in NW Guyana.
Ref: 2,3,7,12,195,245,237.

**Citrus aurantium** L. (*Citrus vulgaris* Risso)
Uses: Leaf: Used in a sedative infusion in French Guiana. Fruit: Refreshing, slightly acidic juice is drunk for influenza, and used for cleansing wounds. In Guyana, a slice of fruit is eaten with salt to control a fever. Peel and pulp are bitter. Fruit: Used for treatment of biliousness in NW Guyana.
Ref: 109,154,195,245.

**Citrus limon** (L.) Burm.
Name: Guyana: lemon
Uses: Leaf: Leaves are boiled and the water drunk for treating colds, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Citrus medica** L.
Uses: Stem: Used in febrifuge pills in French Guiana. Fruit: Used for malaria and to treat coughs and colds in NW Guyana.
Citrus reticulata Blanco
NAMES: Guyana: mandarin orange, tangerine.
USES: Stem: Thorns used for removing splinters in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

Citrus sinensis (L.) Osbeck
USES: Leaf: In an aromatic infusion to soothe grippe. Fruit: Infusion of the mesocarp is used as a cholagogue, and drunk on an empty stomach to relieve stomach pain. Flower: Infusion used as a sedative.
CHEM: Fruit contains citric acid, pectin, flavones, essential oils and vitamin C.
Ref: 2,4,195.

Erythrochiton brasiliensis Nees & Martius
USES: Root: Root-bark used as a vermifuge in Guyana.
Ref: 48.

Monniera trifolia L.
USES: Leaf: Decocted by the French Guiana Palikur for an external application to soothe persistent headaches.
CHEM: Contains numerous alkaloids, including the furoquinoleic alkaloids skimiamine and dictamnine (2).
Ref: 2.

Pilocarpus demerarae Sandwith
USES: Leaf: May yield the useful alkaloid pilocarpine for the pharmaceutical trade in Guyana. Pilocarpine from Pilocarpus jaborandi has clinical use as a parasympathomimetic (166).
Ref: 48.

Ruta graveolens L.
NAME: Surinam: stoipiwiwiri.
USES: Leaf: In Surinam, decoction of leaves is used to treat convulsions in young children.
Ref: 195.
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

**Ticorea foetida** Aublet
NAME: French Guiana: ticoree.
USES: Whole plant: Very bitter; febrifuge, substitute for quinine.
Ref: 154.

**Triphasia trifolia** (Burm. fil.) P. Wils.
Ref: 195.

**Zanthoxylum apiculatum** (Sandwith) Waterman (*Fagara apiculata* Sandwith)
USES: Stem: Sap from fresh inner bark is used to treat toothache in Guyana.
CHEM: Wood contains the alkaloid magnoflorine (29).
Ref: 3, 8, 9, 192.

**Zanthoxylum caribaeum** Lam.
USES: Stem: Bark is very bitter, used in French Guiana as a febrifuge and aperitive.
Ref: 168, 192.

**Zanthoxylum flavum** Vahl (*Fagara flava* (Vahl) Krug & Urban)
NAMES: FG Creole: bois piquant, zepini.
USES: Stem: The French Guiana Wayapi chew the bark into a fine pulp, and insert it as a tampon (plug) in a tooth cavity for a dental analgesic to reduce pain.
CHEM: Wood contains the coumarins psoralene and suberosine. Psoralene is a chemical defense against fungus and insect attack of the tree, and also an agent used in photochemotherapy against vitiligo, psoriasis and mycoses (2).
Ref: 2.

**Zanthoxylum hermaphroditum** Willd. (*Fagara guianensis* Lam.)
NAMES: French Guiana: bois amer, bois piquant, cacatin, fagarier, poivre negre.
USES: Whole plant: Resin is astringent and vulnerary. Stem: Bark is antifebrile, regarded by some French Guianans as the equivalent of quinine. Used in a tonic and febrifuge for certain forms of malarial fever when quinine does not produce the desired effect. Fruit: Wall of capsule is aromatic, piquant.
CHEM: Contains paralyzing zanthopicrite and zanthopicrine (154).
Ref: 154.
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

**Zanthoxylum pentandrum** (Aublet) R. Howard (*Fagara pentandra* Aublet)


 USES: Root: Infusion in alcohol is believed an efficacious aphrodisiac. Stem: Bark is chewed by the French Guiana Wayapi until finely pulverised, and inserted as a tampon (plug) in tooth cavity for a dental analgesic. Decoction of trunk-bark is used as a hot bath to soothe venereal chancre, and to remedy eruptions of pimples on the legs of children. Macerated bark mixed with wine or rum is a bitter tonic having antimalarial and antibleennorrhagic properties. The Surinam Tirio rub the peeled, crushed bark onto sores caused by leishmaniasis, and also wash in a decoction of the rasped, boiled bark as a treatment for fevers.

 CHEM: Wood contains lupeol, and the alkaloids berberine and magnoflorine. Stem-bark contains magnoflorine and choline (2).

 Ref: 2,8,154,195.

**Zanthoxylum rhoifolium** Lam. (*Fagara rhofolia* (Lam.) Engler; probably also *Zanthoxylum perrottetii* DC.)


 USES: Stem: Decoction of trunk-bark used as a hot bath to soothe venereal chancre, and to remedy eruptions of pimples on the legs of children. Macerated bark mixed with wine or rum is a bitter tonic having anti-malarial and anti-blennorrhagic properties. Bark is boiled with water and drunk as an anti-malarial, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark and Leaf: Inner bark and leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-pyretic, by the Guyana Patamona.

 CHEM: Contains various alkaloids including allocryptopine, candicine, magnoflorine and temberatine (119).

 Ref: 2,154,237.

**Zanthoxylum cf. rhoifolium** Lam.


 USES: Bark: Inner bark is boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-malarial, by the Guyana Patamona.

 Ref: 237.

**Zanthoxylum sp.**


 USES: Bark and Leaf: Macerated bark is and leaves are warmed and used as an anti-arthritic, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice form the macerated inner bark and leaves is used to treat dermatoses and as a treatment for sores, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf: Juice from macerated leaves is used as an anti-fungal and as a treatment for eczema or dermatosis, by the Guyana Patamona.

 Ref: 237.
Cardiospermum halicacabum L.
USES: Whole plant: Infusion of seedling is used to clear the uterus after childbirth. Root: Infusion used as a stomachic and diuretic. Part unspecified: Emmenagogue.
CHEM: Seed oil reportedly has the properties of an insect repellent, antifeedant and anti-inflammatory (10,142).
Ref: 4,168.

Cardiospermum halicacabum L. var. microcarpum (H.B.K.) Blume
NAMES: Guyana: bishop's cap.
USES: Whole plant: Decoction used to treat chest colds and asthma. Mixed with Cyanthillium cinereum and Desmodium barbatum in a decoction for kidney disorders.
Ref: 3.

Cupania aff. americana L.
USES: Root: The Surinam Akuriyo use the grated root as a treatment for diarrhoea.
Ref: 8.

Cupania hirsuta Radlkofer
USES: Leaf: Crushed leaves are made into a decoction, to which leaves of Siparuna guianensis are sometimes added, which is used as a febrifuge wash.
Ref: 2,192.

Matayba arborescens (Aublet) Radlkofer (Sapindus arborescens Aublet)
USES: Same uses as given for Sapindus saponaria in French Guiana.
Ref: 154,192,208.

Melicococcus bijugatus Jacq. (Melicocca bijuga L.)
NAMES: Surinam: knepa, knippelboom, knippen, sensibon.
USES: Leaf: Infusion used to decrease or retard perspiration.
Ref: 195,208.
**Paullinia acuminata** Uittien  
NAME: Guyana Patamona: pi-gik-yik  
USES: **Wood:** Wood is used as a fish poison, by the Guyana Patamona. **Stem:** Stem is ground and used as a fish poison, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**Paullinia capreolata** (Aublet) Radlkofer  
USES: **Stem:** Bark used for sores, wounds and cuts in NW Guyana. **Leaf:** Used to disinfect the umbilical cord of newborn babies, and for treating sores, wounds and cuts in NW Guyana.  
Ref: 245.

**Paullinia cupana** H.B.K. (*Paullinia sorbilis* Martius)  
USES: **Seed:** Used in a medication for migraine headaches in French Guiana.  
NOTES: Plant introduced from Venezuela to French Guiana.  
Ref: 154.

**Paullinia dasygonia** Radlkofer  
USES: **Whole plant:** The Surinam Tirio drink a decoction of crushed plant to expel stomach worms. The Surinam Wayana drink a cold water infusion of crushed plant to treat painful swollen stomach and blood in stools. The Surinaam Akuriyo rub crushed plant on the stomach to treat stomachache.  
Ref: 8.

**Paullinia latifolia** Benth. ex Radlkofer  
USES: **Whole plant:** Liana is used to poison the water for fishing, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**Paullinia pinnata** L.  
USES: **Leaf:** Infusion is used in Surinam to treat metabolic disorders in young children. **Fruit:** Used as a fish poison; contains ichthyotoxic saponins.  
Ref: 2,195,208.

**Paullinia rufescens** L.C. Rich. ex Juss.  
USES: **Stem:** Stem is used as a fish poison, by the Guyana Patamona.
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

Ref: 237.

**Paullinia** sp.
USES: Part unspecified: Used as a fish poison by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.
Ref: 238.

**Pseudima frutescens** (Aublet) Radlkofer (*Sapindus frutescens* Aublet)
USES: Leaf: Surinam Tirio men bathe the scrotum in a decoction of boiled leaves in order to treat "checkball", a condition involving the testicles. Leaves are also put into a fire and the smoke allowed to bathe the testicles. Fruit: Same soap properties as given for *Sapindus saponaria*.
Ref: 8, 154, 192.

**Sapindus saponaria** L.
NAMES: FG Creole: bois savon, bois savonette.
USES: Root and Stem: Root and stem-bark for tonic astringents and bitters. Fruit: Contains an emulsifying saponin (hederagenine) and thus used in French Guiana as a soap, and for shampooing the hair. Diuretic.
Ref: 2, 154.

**Serjania grandifolia** Sagot
NAME: FG Wayapi: kutupu.
USES: Stem: The French Guiana Wayapi use sap from the cut stem as a fish poison.
Ref: 2.

**Serjania oblongifolia** Radlkofer
USES: Whole plant: The Surinam Tirio use a decoction of crushed plant to treat cramps. The Surinam Wayana use a cold water infusion of crushed plant to treat cramps.
Ref: 8.

**Serjania paucidentata** DC.
USES: Whole plant: Juice used for a narcotic in French Guiana. Root: Cooked by the Surinam Saramaccan Bush Negro as a remedy for afflictions of the mucous membranes. Stem and Leaf: In Surinam, a piece of tendril with leaves is used to treat metabolic disorders. Leaf: Used for thrush in NW Guyana.
**Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)**

Ref: 154,192,193,208,245.

**Talisia** cf. **hemidasya** Radlkofener
USES: Leaf: Sick people in certain Surinam Amerindian tribes are washed with the leaves as part of a healing ritual.
Ref: 8,208.

**Talisia squarrosa** Radlkofener
NAME: Guyana: sand mora.
USES: Part unspecified: Used as a fish poison by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.
Ref: 238.

**Talisia** sp.
NAME: Surinam Wayana: ku-mah-we-mah.
USES: Leaf: Cold water infusion is used by the Surinam Wayana as a wash to prevent illness caused by eating certain kinds of food.
Ref: 8.

**Toulicia guianensis** Aublet
NAME: Guyana Patamona: ha-ko-lu-ka-yik.
USES: Root and Bark: Root and bark are boiled and the water drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark: Bark is boiled with water and drunk as an anti-malarial, by the Guyana Patamona. Latex from the bark is applied to the skin as a treatment for chicken pox or for measles, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Urvillea ulmacea** Kunth
USES: Stem: An antidiarrhoeic decoction made from crushed stems is drunk by the French Guiana Wayapi.
Ref: 2.

**SAPOTACEAE**

**Chrysophyllum** cf. **argenteum** Jacq. subsp. **auratum** (Miq.) Pennington (*Chrysophyllum auratum* Miq.)
NAME: Guyana Patamona: wa-ta-mo-yik.
USES: Bark: Heated bark is used as a medicament for sores, by the Guyana Patamona.
Chrysophyllum cainito L.
USES: Whole plant: Infusion of seedling used as a cholagogue in French Guiana. Stem: Bark used in preparing a tonic or excitant. Leaf: An uneven number of leaves (9 or 11) is decocted for a hypoglycemic drink in French Guiana.
CHEM: Leaf contains myriatine (120).
Ref: 2,4,149,154.

Manilkara bidentata (A. DC.) Chev.
USES: Whole plant: Latex used as an effective cure for dysentery. Stem: A clyster is used for "carabisi sickness". Decoction of the bark mixed with the barks of Hymenaea sp. and Humiria sp. is used as an effective cure for dysentery. Bark used to treat "buck sick"; emetic.
Ref: 48,190,191,192.

Manilkara zapota (L.) van Royen (Achras sapota L.)
USES: Stem: Bark decoction is a tonic febrifuge. Fruit: Eaten to remedy indigestion. Used for diarrhea in NW Guyana. Seed: In Guyana and Surinam, parched and/or peeled seeds are eaten to alleviate retention of urine, i.e., to stimulate release of urine. The fatty seed is a diuretic which must be used with caution since high dosage causes dysuria.
CHEM: Contains the alkaloid saponine (154).
Ref: 154,190,193,245.

Micropholis guyanensis (A. DC.) Pierre
CHEM: The indoloquinoline alkaloid cryptolepine is an active compound isolated from material collected near Asindopo village, Suriname.
Ref: 244.

Pouteria guianensis Aubl.
NAME: Guyana Arawak: asepoko.
USES: Part unspecified: Used for its medicinal properties by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.
Ref: 238.

Pouteria melanopoda Eyma
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

USES:  Stem: Decoction of boiled bark used as a wash for treating rheumatism, sprains, contusions and muscular pain by the Surinam Tirio. Stem and Leaf: Inner bark is combined with crushed leaves and rubbed on the body by the Surinam Akuriyo to rid it of lice and soothe the bee stings.
Ref:  8.

Pouteria sagotiana (Baillon) Eyma (Eremoluma sagotiana Baill.)
USES:  Bark: Inner bark is scraped, warmed and used as a medicament for sores, by the Guyana Patamona. Part unspecified: Decoction used as a wash by the Surinam Tirio to treat a condition known as "wepurukane", which possibly refers to spontaneous abortion.
Ref:  8,237.

Pouteria venosa (Mart.) Baehni
USES:  Bark: Bark is boiled with water and drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona. Seed: Seeds are chewed or grated, placed in cold water, and drunk as an analgesic for pain in the chest and heart, by the Guyana Patamona. Seeds are chewed to prevent fluttering of the heart, by the Guyana Patamona. Seeds are grated, soaked in water overnight and drunk as a treatment for heartburn, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruit: Grated fruits are boiled with water and drunk as an anti-diarrheal, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref:  237.

Pouteria sp.
USES:  Stem: Small pieces of bark are sucked by the Guyana Wapishana to remedy colds and chest congestion. Stem and Leaf: Decoction of crushed leaves and rasped bark is used as a wash by the Surinam Wayana to treat aching bones after long walks.
NOTES:  An undetermined species of Sapotaceae, known to the Surinam Tirio as "kah-ri-me-de", provides bark which is drunk in a decoction to induce abortion (8).
Ref:  8,32.

Pradosia schomburgkiana (A. DC.) Cronquist
USES:  Stem: Bark decoction used to treat coughs in Guyana. Bark used to treat tuberculosis and for coughs and colds in NW Guyana.
Ref:  48,192,245.
Angelonia biflora Benth.
USES: Whole plant: Used to treat fever in Guyana.
Ref: 16.

Bacopa aquatica Aublet
USES: Leaf: Pulverized leaf used for treating wounds, cracked skin and burns.
Ref: 149,154.

Bacopa monnieri (L.) Wettstein
NAME: FG Creole: ti quinine.
USES: Whole plant: Mixed with a little salt into a bitter infusion used for a febrifuge and antimalarial.
CHEM: Contains the alkaloid brahmine, which raises blood pressure when administered in therapeutic dosage, and is hypotensive when given in very strong dosage. A tranquilizing saponin resembling reserpine is also present. Alcoholic extract of plant is a muscle relaxant and cardiovascular relaxant (121).
Ref: 2.

Capraria biflora L.
NAMES: FG Creole: the d'Amerique, the de pays, the des Antilles, the Guadeloupe, the pays. Guyana: bhuyara, negro-broom, wild tea.
USES: Whole plant: Infusion is drunk for a calming effect, tonic, digestive and cholagogue; infusion has an antispasmodic action, especially after a violent purgative; saline decoction for a vermifuge. Young plant is pulverised and mixed with soft grease and sugar in a poultice which is applied to hard boils to bring them to a point. Stem and Leaf: Infusion for colic, diuretic and antiperiodic. Leaf: Crushed leaves are salted and moistened in rum or vinegar, and applied in a row as a cataplasm on the forehead to treat violent headache. Decoction of crushed leaves, or of young shoots, used for an eyewash. Infusion used as a cholagogue, refreshant and tea. Used in treatment of gallstones in NW Guyana.
Ref: 2,3,4,154,168,245.

Lindernia crustacea (L.) F. Muell.
USES: Whole plant: Infusion is employed to diminish leakage of albuminuria; to treat leprosy; decoction drunk as a tea for febrifuge effect.
Ref: 2.
**Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)**

**Lindernia diffusa** (L.) Wettstein (*Vandellia diffusa* L.)
NAMES: French Guiana: haimerada (liver medication), herbe du Paraguay.
USES: Whole plant: Bitter, mucilaginous; mildly purgative; decoction for both continual and intermittent fevers; emetic and febrifuge for bilious fever or dysentery. For liver ailments.
Ref: 154.

**Maurandia cf. erubescens** A. Gray
USES: Root: Used for treatment of arthritis in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

**Scoparia dulcis** L.
USES: Whole plant: Dried for a blood-purifying tea in order to reduce blood sugar levels. Decoction is drunk to treat dizziness [*Kivist 167, coll. 1987, Guyana (US)*]. Infusion mixed with manioc and milk is used in French Guiana to treat infants' vomiting. For jaundice and boils it is often mixed in an infusion with *Tripogandra serrulata*, *Persea americana* and *Senna alata*. Decoction for children's fever, thrush and mouth sores. Macerated in an infusion or strong decoction for inducing children's vomiting and as an emetic to relieve stomach pain. Used to treat gonorrhoea sores in 18th century French Guiana. Cooked in water and drunk to control bile. Used in treatment of biliousness, as a laxative, for malaria, sores, venereal disease, and for coughs and colds in NW Guyana. Plant is boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-asthmatic, as an anti-pyretic, as a treatment for back pain, or as a remedy for influenza, for colds and coughing, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated plant in water is used for an herbal bath, by the Guyana Patamona. Root: Cooked in water which is drunk for a cough remedy. Infused in water for an aphrodisiac. Stem: Bark decoction used for treating fever in Guyana. Stem and Leaf: Juice, or a decoction of the leafy branches, when mixed with mother's milk is used as an antivomitive for nursing infants; infusion of aerial parts drunk as a tea for migraine headache or as a purgative; decoction for febrifuge, dizziness, or wash for headache; plaster for violent and persistent head pain. Infusion for jaundice in mothers of newborn. Leaf: Cooked with root of *Senna alata* for use as an antifilarial. Decocted with leaves of *Eleusine indica* for dysentery. Leaf infusion for an antilennorrhagic, migraine or a purgative; in a bath for skin eruptions such as heat rash. Leaves and dried branches are mixed with *Nicotiana tabacum* and smoked to relieve sinusitis, and also used in a maceration with leaves of *Quararibea turbinata* and alcohol for sinusitis. Dried leaves smoked as a substitute for marijuana (*Cannabis sativa*). Leaf-juice for coughs, mouth sores, inflammation of gums. Leaves are an ingredient in a bitter tea used to cleanse the blood and skin, and for biliousness. Macerated and applied to treat thrush, sores and ulcers. Macerated and applied to treat thrust, sores and ulcers. Juice from macerated leaves is used as an antibiotic eye-drop, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves are boiled and the water used as an eye-wash for infected eyes or as a tonic, by the Guyana Patamona. Part unspecified: Diuretic.
CHEM:Contains the toxic alkaloid scoparine, as well as (in root) 6-methoxy-benzoxazolinone (which is hypotensive and antidiabetic), and triterpenoids (122). Oil from aerial parts contains tritriacontane, dulciol, beta-sitosterol and dulciolone (3).
NOTES: Tikuna Indian women in Colombia drink a decoction during menstruation for its contraceptive and abortifacient properties (10).
Ref: 2,3,4,7,14,16,45,149,154,168,190,193,195,234,237,245.

**Stemodia pusilla** Benth. (*Matourea pratensis* Aublet)
USES: Root: Decoction used as a gargle against oral inflammations; vulnerary. Leaf and Flower: Infusion for migraine headaches.
Ref: 154.

**Veronica americana** Schweinf.
NAMES: FG Creole: balai-doux, herbe a balai, herbe a balai sauvage, petit balai a graines.
USES: Whole plant: For an antiblennorrhagic tea; emetic for stimulating children to vomit; for an antiodontalgic gargle; decoction of leaf and stem used to treat heavy menstrual flow; emollient. Leaf: Infusion for fevers. This plant is used in much the same way as *Scoparia dulcis*. Ref: 154.

**SELAGINELLACEAE**

**Selaginella epirrhizos** Spring
NAME: Surinam Tirio: sho-ro-sho-ro eh-heh.
USES: Whole plant: The Surinam Tirio use a decoction of the boiled plant as a wash for headache.
Ref: 8.

**Selaginella pedata** Klotzsch
NAME: Surinam Tirio: shu-ro-shu-ro eh-heh.
USES: Same use as given for *Selaginella epirrhizos*.
Ref: 8.

**SIMAROUBACEAE**

**Picramnia guianensis** (Aublet) Jansen-Jacobs (*Picramnia tariri* DC.; *Tariri guianensis* Aublet)
USES: Stem: Bark used in an astringent infusion. Leaf: Used as a violet decorative dye for the skin by French Guianan Amerindians.
Ref: 154.
**Picrasma excelsa** Swartz (*Aeschrion excelsum* (Swartz) Kuntze; *Picraena excelsa* (Swartz) Lindley; *Quassia excelsa* Swartz)

**NAMES:** French Guiana: bois Saint-Martin. Guyana: urariwong.

**USES:** Whole plant: Febrifuge. A source of quassia chips, once used in bitters. **Stem:** Bark used in wourali (curare) poison in Guyana.

**Ref:** 16,154,173.

**Picrolemma pseudocoffea** Ducke

**NAMES:** FG Creole: cafe lane. FG Palikur: tuukamwi.

**USES:** Stem: Bark prepared in a decoction with bark of *Zanthoxylum rhoifolium* for a febrifuge and for protection from malaria and swamp fever (an antimalarial agent). Shavings of stem macerated in rum are used for a vermifuge and antidyssenteric beverage.

**CHEM:** Contains harmine alkaloids, and the quassinoids isobruceine and sergeolide (the latter an antimalarial), as well as the potent antileukemic deacetylsergeolide (123,124).

**Ref:** 2.

**Quassia amara** L.


**USES:** **Root:** Infusion used to reduce malarial fever (overdose believed to cause paralysis).

**Bark:** Bark is boiled and the water drunk as an anti-diarrheal, as an anti-dysenteric, and as an antimalarial, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated inner bark is boiled, and the water drunk to treat colds, by the Guyana Patamona. **Bark and Leaf:** Bark and leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-pyretic, by the Guyana Patamona.

**Stem:** Wood chips are decocted in lotions for persistent venereal ulcers. Infusion of wood and fresh roots is used for refractory fevers, tonic, aperitive and febrifuge. In French Guiana an alcohol extract is called "quassine". Piece of wood in water, gin, vermouth or cognac is drunk as a pyretic for fever, e.g., malarial fever. Infusion is a good tonic for the stomach and intestines. Stem is also used in remedies for diseases of the spleen, liver (cirrhosis), and urinary tract. Bark used as a blood purifier and for treating weak eyes of alcoholics. Bark macerated in rum for a vermifuge. Bark is mixed with the macerated stem of *Tinospora crispa* in rum, cognac or absinthe for a beverage employed against diabetes and albuminuria. Chipped, soaked in wine or water, and the extract used to restore appetite and as a tonic to reduce blood sugar levels. In Surinam, stem is employed to make bitters for reducing a fever. **Wood:** Used for treatment of biliousness, malaria an sores in NW Guyana. **Stem and Leaf:** Decoction of bark and leaves used as a wash to rid skin of external parasites such as agouti lice. Infusion of bark and leaves for a febrifuge, bitter tonic and vermifuge; cholagogue. Boiled for a liquid bath to treat measles and smallpox in Guyana.

**Leaf:** Crushed leaves placed on body reputedly act as a mosquito repellent. Used in treatment of fevers in NW Guyana. **Leaf, Flower and Root:** Infusion for a febrifuge in French Guiana. **Flower:** Infusion is drunk to alleviate a heavy feeling in stomach. **Seed:** Used for malaria in NW Guyana.

**CHEM:** Stem-bark contains the insecticidals neoquassine and quassine. Sap shows activity against cells derived from carcinoma of human nasopharynx. Plant extracts contain the antileukemic compounds quassimarin and similikalactone (3).
NOTES: Quassia bitters and the *Quassia amara* plant are discussed in detail in Ref: 193, pp.24-28. Ref: 2,3,4,7,9,12,154,168,173,190,192,193,195,237,245.

**Simaba cedron** Planchon (*Quassia cedron* (Planchon) Baillon)


**USES:** Stem: Bark macerated in rum for a vermifuge, antimalarial and bitter tonic. Inner bark in a decoction to remedy malaria, cutaneous eruptions, and to assist childbirth. **Stem and Seed:** Infusion of bark and seeds used as an antidote for snakebite and as a febrifuge for mild or intermittent fever. **Leaf:** Powdered for a dog-mange remedy. **Part unspecified:** Used to soothe skin irritations, by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.

**CHEM:** Seed contains the quassinoids cedrin, cedronin and cedronylin (2,44). Bark and seeds contain the bitter alkaloid cedrine (9,48).

Ref: 2,3,8,48,192,238.

**Simaba guianensis** Aubl. (*Quassia guianensis* (Aublet) Dietr.)

**NAME:** Guyana Patamona: wa-ra-tak-pu-ta-yik.

**USES:** Bark: Bark is boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-helmintic, by the Guyana Patamona.

Ref: 237.

**Simaba morettii** Feuillet

**NAMES:** FG Creole: courbaril savane, simarouba male.

**USES:** Stem: Bark macerated in rum for a vermifuge, antimalarial and bitter tonic. Macerated bark mixed with rum is used to relieve toothache pain.

**CHEM:** Root-bark contains the quassinoids simarinolide and guanepolide; also rich in simarolide; stem-bark contains harmine alkaloids.

Ref: 2,125.

**Simaba multiflora** A. Juss. (*Quassia multiflora* (A. Juss.) Nooteboom)


**USES:** Stem: Decoction of bark is used as an external wash for headache by the French Guiana Wayapi.

**CHEM:** Contains karinolide and chaparrinone, and canthinone alkaloids (126,127).

Ref: 2,192.

**Simarouba amara** Aublet (*Quassia officinalis* DC.; *Quassia simarouba* L. fil.)

USES: Stem: Bark macerated in rum is used as a bitter tonic, antimalarial and antidysenteric. Bark infusion for fever, stomachache, indigestion, dysentery and diarrhea. Root: Bark infusion for febrifuge, indigestion, dysentery and diarrhea. Bark for a diuretic, febrifuge and cholera; emetic in high dosage. Fruit: Strong stimulant with pleasantly bitter taste; effective for dysentery.
CHEM: Contains an antineoplastic quassinoid as well as simarolide (a quassinoid) and glaucarubinone (a malarial larvicide) (128,129,140). Root-bark contains resinous quassine, also gallic and malic acids (154).
Ref: 2,48,154,168,190,192,195,237.

SMILACACEAE

Smilax cordato-ovata L.C. Richard
NAMES: FG Creole: bagou, liane bagotte, salsepareille.
USES: Root: Grated into a male aphrodisiac decoction which is both consumed as a beverage and rubbed onto the sexual organs by the French Guiana Palikur. Stem: Antisyphilitic; maceration or decoction as a depurative.
CHEM: Active principles are steroidal saponosides such as sarsaponoside.
Ref: 2.

Smilax cumanensis Willd.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: che-pou-tai-yik.
USES: Root: Root is boiled with water and drunk as a treatment for back pain, by the Guyana Patamona. Root and Stem: Root and stem are boiled with water, sugar added and used as a tonic, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Smilax cuspidata Poir.
NAMES: FG Creole: bagou, liane bagotte, salsepareille.
USES: Same uses as given for Smilax cordato-ovata.
Ref: 2.

Smilax lasseriana Steyerm.
USES: Whole plant: Plant is boiled, and the water drunk as a treatment for impotence, by the Guyana Patamona. Root: Dried roots are boiled, and the water drunk for back pain, by the Guyana Patamona. Dried roots are ground into a powder and used for making a tonic, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Smilax latipes Gleason
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

NAME: Guyana Patamona: put-a-lu-mu-yik
USES: Vine: Vine is boiled, and the water drunk as an analgesic for back pain, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Smilax pseudosyphilitica Kunth
NAMES: FG Creole: bagou, liane bagotte, salsepareille.
USES: Same uses as given for Smilax cordato-ovata.
Ref: 2.

Smilax riedeliana A. DC.
NAMES: FG Creole: bagou, liane bagotte, salsepareille.
USES: Same uses as given for Smilax cordato-ovata.
Ref: 2.

Smilax schomburgkiana Kunth
USES: Root: Grated into a male aphrodisiac decoction which is both consumed as a beverage and rubbed onto the sexual organs by the French Guiana Palikur. Stem: Antisyphilitic; maceration or decoction as a depurative. Used for back pain and as aphrodesiac in NW Guyana. Root, or Root and Stem: In Guyana, made into an aphrodisiac or tonic decoction, which may be mixed with kapadula (Doliocarpus sp.), sarsaparilla (Philodendron sp.) and Strychnos sp., or boiled with other ingredients including bark of Hymenaea oblongifolia Huber var. davisii (Sandwith) Lee & Langenheim. Part unspecified: Ingredient in curare made by the Surinam Wayana.
NOTES: The root contains the hormones testosteron and progesterone, which are used to revitalize men and prevent infections, i.e., used for impotence, venereal and bladder disease, syphilis.
Ref: 2,3,192,193,194,234,245.

Smilax syphilitica Willd.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: spo-ta-yik.
USES: Vine: Vine is boiled, and the water drunk as an analgesic for back pain, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Smilax sp.
USES: Whole plant: The Surinam Tirio apply sap from the liana onto sprains, contusions, rheumatic pain and muscular pain.
NOTES: An undetermined species of *Smilax*, known in Guyana as "dorokwaropimpla", provides roots made into an infusion for an antispasmodic to treat diseases of the urethra and bladder (48). The root of an undetermined species of *Smilax* is made into a digestive infusion in French Guiana (4).

Ref: 8.

**SOLANACEAE**

*Brunfelsia americana* L.
USES: **Fruit:** Sugary fruit is made into an astringent syrup used in French Guiana for cases of persistent diarrhoea.

Ref: 154.

*Brunfelsia guianensis* Bentham


USES: **Whole plant:** Plant is boiled, and the water used for an herbal bath, by the Guyana Patamona. **Stem:** Dried bark is smoked in cigarettes as an hallucinogenic by French Guiana Palikur shamans, in association with a bark maceration of *Bonafousia macrocalyx*. The Tirio and Wayapi of Surinam use the bark in a possibly hallucinogenic potion to induce visions (while causing vomiting), when mixed with *Caperonia* sp., *Poraqueiba guianensis* and *Aegiphila* cf. *integrifolia*. Cold water infusion of the bark, when held in the mouth, is said by the Surinam Tirio to be extremely effective in relieving toothache. The Surinam Wayana use a cold water infusion of rasped bark as a treatment for fevers. **Leaf:** Macerated leaves in water are boiled and used as an antipyretic and as a treatment for cold sweat, by the Guyana Patamona.

CHEM: Various *Brunfelsia* species in Amazonian Brazil are widely used by Amerindians as a source of psychotropic drugs (130, 131A).

Ref: 2,8,237.

*Capsicum annuum* L.


USES: **Fruit:** Boiled as a curare admixture by the Surinam Tirio of Tepoe, Guyana Arawak and Macushi (and Brazil Tirio). Used as a remedy for serious indigestion due to alcohol consumption. Powerful stimulant; combined with quinine for intermittent fevers. Used in a gargle to remedy mouth sores. An extract is used to treat the first appearance of hemorrhoids.

CHEM: Contains the alkaloids capsaeicine, solanidine and solasodine (29,33).

Ref: 8,154,173,193,194.
Capsicum annuum L. var. glabriusculum (Dunal) Heiser & Pickersgill (Capsicum annuum L. var.aviculare (Dierbach) D’Arcy & Eshbaugh; Capsicum minimum L.)
NAME: Guyana: bird-pepper.
USES: Fruit: In Guyana, the conical fruit of this indigenous plant is crushed and eaten to strengthen the heart, and as a laxative.
Ref: 234.

Capsicum frutescens L.
USES: Leaf: In Guyana, a preparation for cleansing the blood is made from leaves steeped in hot water. Fruit: Employed by French Guiana Wayapi in the preparation of curare with Strychnos guianensis; in a remedy to treat infection of microfilarial larvae with leaves of Begonia glabra; and in a preparation to soothe furuncles with leaves of Bellucia grossularioides. A well-known "hot" condiment. Green fruit mixed with leaves in an infusion for colds and coughs. In Guyana, the globular fruit of the cultivated form is eaten to stimulate digestion and strengthen the heart. Used for colds and coughs in NW Guyana.
NOTES: The whole plant of an unspecified species of Capsicum, known as "red pepper" in Guyana, is used by the Macushi as a stimulant and excitant (45).
Ref: 2,3,195,245.

Capsicum sp.
NAMES: Guyana Patamona: pui-mau-iik, pi-mi-ruk-iik.
USES: Fruit: Fruit is made into a poultice and used as a medicament for “bush yaws”, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruit is used as a spice for flavoring food by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Cestrum latifolium Lam. var. tenuiflorum (Kunth) O. Schulz
USES: Stem and Leaf: The tops are used for recovery of women after childbirth; to control stomach muscles. Leaf: Crushed leaves in a gargle to remedy throat problems.
Ref: 2,193.

Cestrum nocturnum L.
NAME: French Guiana: cestreau.
USES: Part unspecified: Yields a narcotic substance which, especially in earlier times, was combined with Datura and used in French Guiana by sorcerers and poisoners of African descent.
NOTES: Plant introduced from elsewhere in South America to French Guiana.
Ref: 154.
Cyphomandra endopogon Bitter
USES: Stem and Leaf: Used by the French Guiana Wayapi in a decoction for fever.
CHEM: The genus *Cyphomandra* contains the coumarin scopoletine.
Ref: 2.

Cyphomandra hartwegii (Miers) Dunal
USES: Same uses as given for *Cyphomandra endopogon*.
Ref: 2.

Datura ceratocaula Ort.
USES: Leaf: Warm leaves applied for sciatica. Tincture for palpitations. Mixed with potato farina for emollient cataplasms. Reportedly used to unblock obstructed uterus. Extract of leaf and root macerated in alcohol and mixed with oil for rubbing on rheumatic areas and for pruritus of genitals. Fruit: Crushed green fruit used to treat pustules of anthracoid erysipelas.
NOTE: Plant introduced from Mexico to French Guiana.
Ref: 154.

Datura metel L. (*Datura fastuosa* L.)
USES: Leaf: With coconut oil on bruises; leaf for a pain-killer (anodyne). Flower: Juice used to treat earache. Seed: In Surinam, burned seeds are smoked in a leaf to remedy asthma.
CHEM: Plant is the source of scopolamine, a sedative (166).
Ref: 14,173,195.

Datura stramonium L.
USES: Leaf: Applied with coconut oil on bruises; leaf used for a pain-killer (anodyne) in Surinam. Fruit: Crushed green fruit used to treat pustules of anthracoid erysipelas in French Guiana. Flower: Juice used to treat earache in Surinam.
Ref: 154,195.

Lycopersicon esculentum Mill.
USES: Leaf: Used in Surinam for treating incipient leprosy spots, in a mixture with castor oil. In a paste applied to filaria worm swellings on a painful groin. Fruit: In Surinam, eaten to provide regular bowel movements. Contains vitamins A, B, C and D.
Ref: 193,195.
Nicotiana tabacum L.


USES: Leaf: Nicotine tar is used to expel parasitic worms in the skin, such as Dermatobia hominis, and to repel Pulex; leaf for a cholagogue decoction to calm the liver; leaves in a cataplasm for headache; juice of green tobacco for an eyewash. Tobacco is mixed with the stem and leaves of Rhabdadenia biflora to remedy wound of stingray. Smoke of burning leaf is wafted over a strangulated hernia in Surinam. Dried leaves are chewed to produce hallucinations, and juice form macerated leaves is drunk during ritual processes, by the Guyana Patamona. Dried leaves are used for smoking and chewing, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf and Stem: Juice from macerated leaves and stems is inhaled as a medication for cold, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf used in treatment for botfly larvae in NW Guyana.

CHEM: Leaf contains malic, citric and nicotinic acids.

NOTES: The leaves are sometimes smoked in a cigar, or the green leaf-juice is used, for a shamanistic narcotic. Leaves are mixed with the ash of Sterculia pruriens, squeezed, and the resulting liquid snuff is inhaled through the nostrils, producing a brief feeling of ecstasy followed by disorientation, an urge to vomit, and a heavy sweat, as engaged in by some French Guianans and Surinam Bush Negroes.

Deleterious effects of habitual tobacco smoking include inhalation of carbon monoxide and tars, emphysema, oral and lung cancer, various circulatory problems such as peripheral vascular disease, shortness of breath, heart disease and complications of pregnancy. When used by tribal shamans, tobacco intoxication can cause a nicotine-induced cataleptic rigidity in which the practitioner's body becomes as stiff and straight as a wooden board. As such, tobacco is used as a hallucinogenic and psychoactive material to create a connection between the shaman and the spirits being consulted for healing instructions, in addition to the strictly medicinal reasons outlined above.

Pharmacology of the nicotine alkaloid is discussed by Johannes Wilbert, Tobacco and Shamanism (Yale University Press, 1987), who notes that Amerindian tribes partake of Nicotiana either by eating it as a food for supernatural spirits within the body who crave it; by masticating (chewing) it; by drinking a liquid resulting from mixing tobacco leaves in water; or by smoking the leaves. Wilbert (1987) reported that the Guyana tobacco-using tribes are: Acawao, Arawak, Atorai, Camaracoto, Carib, Caribisi, Carina, Macushi, Patamona, Pemon, Taruma, Waiwai, Wapishana, Warao and Wayana (Oayana); the Surinam tribes are: Arawak, Carib and Tirio; and the French Guiana tobacco-using tribes are: Carib, Emerillon, Galibi, Tirio and Wayana.

Ref: 2,4,7,131,154,173,190,193,195,237,245.

Physalis angulata L.


USES: Whole plant: Decoction used to treat upset stomach and Bright's disease; plant may be boiled with leaves from male plants of congo-pump (Cecropia spp.) and Carica papaya, and mixed with rum as a preservative. Used in treatment of skin diseases in NW Guyana. Seed: Cooked with Phyllanthus amarus seeds in a preparation given to women after childbirth.

Ref: 3,195,245.
Physalis pubescens L.
Chem: The genus Physalis contains withanolide lactonic steroids.
Ref: 2,4,154,168,190,245.

Physalis cf. pubescens L.
Name: Guyana Patamona: tuk-kuik-nang-yik.
Uses: Whole plant: The smoke of the burned plant is used to soothe babies when they are irritable, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Physalis surinamensis Miq.
Name: Surinam: batoto bita.
Uses: Fruit: For eye pain; to strengthen the kidney and its functions; for ulcerated bladder, jaundice and rheumatism.
Ref: 193.

Solanum americanum Miller
Uses: Whole plant: Decoction used as a blood purifier and to expel worms. Vermifuge and antispasmodic. Locally recommended for cardialgia, corroding ulcers, suppurating cancers, deep wounds, skin diseases such as dartre, and for use in cataplasms for kidney pain. Stem and Leaf: In Guyana, used in a tea for improved kidney function. Root: Root is washed clean, boiled with water, mixed with lime juice and a pinch of salt, and is drunk as an anti-malarial, by the Guyana Patamona. Part unspecified: Used by Surinam Saramaccan Bush Negroes as an ingredient in a curative herbal bath. For tetanus cramps, manic fits of stiffness, contractions of limbs, or to clear the head.
Ref: 3,154,168,173,193,234,237.

Solanum americanum Miller var. nodiflorum (Jacq.) Sendtner (Solanum nigrum L. var. nodiflorum Sandwith)
Name: FG Creole: alaman.
Uses: Leaf: Decoction is antispasmodic and emetic; leaves macerated in rum are alexiteric; emulsion for a vermifuge.
Solanum crinitum Lam. (*Solanum macranthum* Dunal)
USES: Stem: Grated bark has an emollient and resolvent effect when rubbed locally on swellings or tumors, as employed by the French Guiana Wayapi. Leaf and Fruit: Fruits and leaves are boiled, and the water used as a medicament for “bush yaws” or for treating sores, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruit: Pulp of fruit is used for treating persistent sores, by the Guyana Patamona. Root: Roots are boiled and the water used as an antibacterial and as an antiseptic (mouthwash), and for treating toothache, by the Guyana Patamona. Roots are boiled and the water drunk as an anti-malarial, by the Guyana Patamona. Part unspecified: Used for easing toothache by the Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana.
Ref: 2,192,237,238.

Solanum jamaicense Mill.
USES: Root and Leaf: Decoction used as an anthelmintic and to treat thrush in children.
CHEM: Contains steroidal sapogenins (10).
Ref: 3,192.

Solanum leucocarpon L.C. Rich. ex Dunal (*Solanum surinamense* Steudel)
USES: Stem and Leaf: Macerated in rum and applied locally to stop itching. Leaf: A bitter decoction is drunk for liver disorders; pulverised and rubbed on parasitic skin afflictions. Decoction of both young and dead leaves, mixed with young leaves of *Psidium guajava*, used as an effective diarrhoea remedy. Used to treat sores in NW Guyana. Root: Roots are boiled, lime juice and a pinch of salt added, and the liquid is drunk as an anti-malarial, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 2,237,245.

Solanum mammosum L.
USES: Fruit: In Surinam, the mashed fruit is mixed with tobacco or *Mansoa alliacea* and rubbed on the feet to ward off sand fleas ("sika", *Tunga penetrans*).
NOTES: The Kofan people of Colombia and Ecuador employ the plant for an insect repellant, especially for cockroaches (10).
Ref: 14,193,195.
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

**Solanum melongena** L.
USES: **Root**: Powdered and applied externally as well as taken internally to remedy bleeding; for asthma. Juice of root is employed in French Guiana for otitis and toothache. In Surinam, warmed fruit-paste is applied to painful joints. **Stem and Leaf**: Leaves mixed with stem-bark for use as a dysentery remedy.
CHEM: Fruit contains trigonelline, protein, choline, calcium, fat, phosphorus, iron and vitamins A, B and C (193).
Ref: 154,193,195.

**Solanum oleraceum** Dunal
USES: **Leaf**: In French Guiana, an infusion is used as an antispasmodic, a vomitive, and to treat the liver. In Surinam, leaf-juice is applied to children's oral inflammations and liver conditions.
Ref: 4,195.

**Solanum paludosum** Moric.
USES: **Fruit**: Fruits are boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-malarial, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Solanum pensile** Sendtm. *(Solanum scandens* L.)*
USES: **Root and Fruit**: Roots and fruits are boiled, and the water drunk as a treatment for inflammation, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Solanum rugosum** Dunal
USES: **Seed**: Seeds are crushed into a powder and used to treat persistent sores and “bush yaws”, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Solanum cf. schlechtendalianum** Walp.
USES: **Root**: Root is boiled with water, mixed with lime juice and a pinch of table salt, and drunk as an anti-malarial, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Solanum stramoniifolium** Jacq.
USES: Root: Pounded root is inserted into cavity of a decayed tooth to relieve toothache; decoction of root used for venereal disease. Roots are boiled, lime juice added, and drunk as an anti-malarial, by the Guyana Patamona. Root preparation used to treat fever, malaria and venereal disease in NW Guyana. Leaf: Infusion for thrush. Leaf and Flower: Syrup prepared for colds. Leaf and Fruit: Leaves and fruits are boiled and the water used for “bush yaws” and sores, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruit: Juice applied to relieve irritation of ant bites. Used for malaria and stomachache in NW Guyana.
Ref: 3,195,234,237,245.

Solanum subinerme Jacq.
USES: Whole plant: Used for treatment of fever and malaria in NW Guyana. Leaf: Employed in treatment of pain in NW Guyana. Fruit: Fruits are used as poultice for treating persistent sores, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated fruits are mixed with water and used as herbal bath for fevers, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237,245.

Solanum sp.
USES: Root: Roots are boiled and the water drunk for intestinal cramps, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruit: Cooked and consumed by diabetics. A bitter variety of the fruit is eaten with oil and pepper to remedy hemorrhoids.
NOTES: In Reference 195 (cited), this plant is named Solanum macrocarpon, which is a name variously used, for example, by Linnaeus for a Mascarene plant, by Molina for a Chilean plant, and applied by Pavon ex Dunal to a Peruvian plant which is now known as Solanum quitoense.
Ref: 195,237.

STERCULIACEAE

Guazuma ulmifolia Lam.
USES: Stem: Decoction used as a wash to facilitate childbirth by the Surinam Tirio. Inner bark in a poultice to dress ulcerous sores in Guyana.
CHEM: Seed-oil contains cycloproprenoidal fatty acids; leaf contains camphoritrin, camphor oil, and caffeine (33,44).
Ref: 8,48.

Sterculia cf. excelsa Martius
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)


USES: Stem: Inner bark rasped and boiled or soaked in cold water, then rubbed on the abdomen by Surinam Tirio women to hasten childbirth. If rubbed on the abdomen prior to the ninth month, however, the female will abort the foetus. Ashes of the bark are added to psychotomimetic snuff made from *Nicotiana tabacum* in Surinam and French Guiana. Boiled bark adds a desirable greasiness to *Bixa* body-paint.

Ref: 8.

**Sterculia pruriens** (Aublet) K. Schum.


USES: Stem: Wood is mixed with tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*) and administered as a soothing remedy for colds.

CHEM: Several species of *Sterculia* contain caffeine in the leaf and seed.

NOTES: The Taiwano of Colombia use the leaf-ash mixed with fat or oil as a hair ointment when the scalp has infected sores or pimples (10).

Ref: 2,192.

**Theobroma cacao** L.


USES: Seed: Used as an emollient by the French Guiana Palikur in a remedy to extract splinters or prickles embedded in the skin, when mixed with stems of *Chromolaena odorata* and wood of *Cecropia obtusa*. Leaf-bud: Infusion used with incense to treat diarrhoea in French Guiana. Fruit: Infusion of dry pods used to decrease leprosy spots. Seed: Infusion of baked seed-membranes is drunk for remedying anemia.

CHEM: Cocoa butter contains glycerides, and its sterols include ergosterol, sitosterol and stigmasterol. Seed alkaloids include caffeine and the diuretic theobromine (166). Seed phenolic compounds include coumarin, esculetine and catechol. Leaf contains genistic acid, an antirheumatic and analgesic.

Ref: 2,4,173,195.

**Theobroma subincanum** Martius


USES: Stem: Rasped inner bark mixed with water and rubbed on ant bites. Decoction of crushed bark used by the Surinam Tirio to expel stomach worms. The Surinam Wayana rub the rasped bark onto testicles swollen from hernia and other causes. Fruit: Edible, with taste like *Theobroma cacao*.

Ref: 8.

**Theobroma** cf. **subincanum** Martius
Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)

USES: Stem: Rasped inner bark is drunk in a decoction by the Surinam Tirio to treat stomachache and pains in the liver and upper chest.
Ref:  8.

Waltheria indica L. (Waltheria americana L.)
USES: Whole plant: In Guyana, a tea made from the plant is used as a cold remedy. Stem and Leaf: Branches in water for a tea used for remedying ulcers as well as bladder and vaginal infections. Leaf: Infusion for treating fever. For treatment of thrush, hypertension, and for colds and coughs in NW Guyana.
CHEM: Contains the peptide alkaloids, adonetine X, Y, Y' and Z (3).
Ref:  3,193,234,245.

TECTARIACEAE

Tectaria incisa Cav. fa. vivipara
USES: Leaf: Used for treatment of infertility in NW Guyana.
Ref:  245.

THEACEAE

Ternstroemia punctata (Aubl.) Sw.
USES: Bark: Warmed bark is used as a medicament for sores, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref:  237.

THEOPHRASTACEAE

Clavija lancifolia Desf.
USES: Leaf: Applied locally in a cataplasm for throat conditions by the French Guiana Wayapi.
Ref:  2.
**Thurniaceae**

*Thurnia sphaerocephala* (Rudge) Hooker  
USES: **Fruit**: French Guiana Wayapi men use a liquid derived from the peeled, macerated fruit to treat infections of the penis.  
Ref: 2.

**Thymelaeaceae**

*Goodallia guianensis* Benth.  
USES: **Whole plant**: Bitter, irritant.  
Ref: 154.

*Lasiadenia rupestris* Benth.  
USES: **Whole plant**: Contains a juice which is a violent irritant to the digestive tract.  
Ref: 154.

**Tiliaceae**

*Apeiba petoumo* Aublet (*Apeiba echinata* Gaertner)  
USES: **Wood**: Ash from the burnt wood is used as toothpaste to prevent cavities or as an analgesic for filling cavities to relieve toothache, by the Guyana Patamona. **Stem**: Inner bark rasped in a cold water infusion or decoction is rubbed on the abdomen of a pregnant Surinam Tirio woman to hasten childbirth. Bark used for snakebite in NW Guyana. **Leaf**: Used for treating hemorrhage in NW Guyana.  
NOTES: An undetermined species of *Apeiba*, known to the Surinam Tirio as "u-wuh-ying", provides stem-bark which is cut into pieces and sucked as a treatment for mouth sores (8).  
Ref: 8,192,205,237,245.

*Apeiba tibourbou* Aubl. (*Apeiba albiflora* Ducke)  
NAME: Guyana Patamona: puvi-yik.
USES: Fruit: Fruits are used as a charm by the women when making the fermented cassava drink known as “casseri” so that casseri will be strong (Guyana Patamona).
Ref: 237.

Corchorus hirtus L.
USES: Whole plant: Juice from macerated plant is used as an anti-fungal, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf: Juice from macerated leaves is used as a treatment for dermatosis, eczema, measles, or for treating sores, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves are pounded, mixed with water, and used as an insecticide for washing the head to get rid of lice, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Lueheopsis rugosa (Pulle) M. Burret
USES: Stem: Inner bark is rasped in a cold water infusion and used by the Surinam Tirio as a wash to treat fevers. Rased bark in water is dripped onto cuts from a machete, to promote healing.
NOTES: The French Guiana Wayapi make clubs from the wood (2).
Ref: 8,192,205.

Triumfetta altheoides Lam.
USES: Leaf: Used in treatment of hemorrhages in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

Triumfetta lappula L.
NAMES: French Guiana: cousin maho, grand cousin, grand maho cousin, herbe a paniers.
USES: Stem-bark, Leaf and Flower: Astringent and mucilaginous; an excellent emollient.
Ref: 149,154.

TRIGONIACEAE

Trigonia cf. hypoleuca Grisebach
NAME: Surinam Tirio: i-pu-kwe-muh.
USES: Whole plant: Latex mixed with cold water is used by the Surinam Tirio as a wash to treat fevers. Ref: 8.

Trigonia villosa Aublet
USES: Stem and Leaf: Decoction is an aphrodisiac, which is used as a substitute for aphrodisiacs containing *Smilax* and *Ptychopetalum*. Decoction is used as a fortifying bath for infants, as a substitute for the *Sabicea cinerea* which is ordinarily used in such baths.  
Ref: 2.

**TURNERACEAE**

**Piriqueta cistoides** (L.) Griseb.  
USES: Leaf: Macerated leaves in water are drunk as an anti-pyretic or are used for an herbal bath and for washing the skin as treatment for cold sweat, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**Turnera rupestris** Aublet  
USES: Whole plant: Plant is boiled and the water drunk as an anti-pyretic, by the Guyana Patamona. Plant is boiled with water, allowed to cool and used for herbal baths, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**Turnera ulmifolia** L.  
USES: Leaf: Used for hair loss and thrush in NW Guyana.  
Ref: 245.

**ULMACEAE**

**Ampelocera edentula** Kuhl.  
NAME: Guyana Patamona: tung-yik.  
USES: Bark: Bark is boiled, and the water used for washing the skin to treat dermatosis or as a treatment for chicken pox and measles, by the Guyana Patamona. Bark is boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-inflammatory, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from macerated inner bark is used as an anti-infective or for treating eye infection and sore eyes, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 237.

**Trema micrantha** (L.) Blume  
USES: Stem: Sap used for sore eyes in NW Guyana.  
Ref: 245.
**Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana)**

**URTICACEAE**

**Laportea aestuans** (L.) Chew (*Fleurya aestuans* (L.) Gaudich.)
USES: Stem and Leaf: Boiled for a preparation to remedy urine retention, and as a diuretic and laxative in Guyana. Leaf: Used in a diuretic preparation in French Guiana. Juice from crushed leaves used as an eyewash for sore eyes (conjunctivitis) in Guyana. In French Guiana, leaves are mixed with sugar syrup to treat coughs. In NW Guyana, used for be wetting and hemorrhage.
CHEM: Leaf contains irritant (stinging) calcium oxalate crystals which cause urticaria (132).
Ref: 2,3,4,190,245.

**Pouzolzia viminea** Wedd. (*Urtica rubra* Reinw. ex Blume)
NAMES: French Guiana: ortie rouge, zouti rouge.
USES: Part unspecified: Vesicant.
NOTES: Plant introduced from Indonesia to French Guiana.
Ref: 168.

**Urera caracasana** (Jacq.) Grisebach
NAME: FG Creole: zouti montagne.
USES: Leaf: The French Guiana Wayapi rub crushed leaves on the skin for a febrifuge.
NOTES: Along the Vaupes River in Brazil, the root is believed to be antihaemorrhagic, and a leaf infusion is used for erysipelas (10). The Tikuna of Colombia use the stinging leaves as a counterirritant for painful joints.
Ref: 2.

**VERBENACEAE**

**Aegiphila integrifolia** (Jacq.) B.D. Jackson
NAME: Guyana Patamona: co-mey-yah-ray-yik.
USES: Leaf: Juice from macerated leaves is used for dermatosis or as a treatment for chicken pox, eczema, measles and sores, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Aegiphila cf. integrifolia** (Jacq.) B.D. Jackson
USES: Stem: Bark rasped in a cold water infusion is used by the Surinam Tirio as a wash to treat fevers.
Aegiphila villosa (Aublet) Gmelin (Manabea villosa Aublet)
USES:  Leaf: For a sudorific excitant. The French Guiana Palikur employ the leaf as a substitute source for the medicinal and narcotic effects derived from Nicotiana tabacum.
Ref:  2,154160.

Aloysia triphylla (L’Her.) Britt. (Verbena triphylla L’Her.)
USES:  Stem and Leaf: In French Guiana, a decoction is used in a lotion to remedy "pian rouge", a form of yaws.
NOTES:  Plant is native to Argentina and Chile.
Ref:  154.

Amasonia campestris (Aublet) Moldenke
USES:  Whole plant: As a cordial in a decoction which is drunk or used as a bath for remedying dizziness in infants; macerated in rum and rubbed on top of the head as an adult relief for dizziness.
Ref:  2,160.

Amasonia cf. campestris (Aublet) Moldenke
NAMES:  Surinam Wayana: wah-se-wah-se.
USES:  Whole plant: Crushed in a decoction used as a wash for earache and headache; smoke of burned plant inhaled when suffering from sweating sickness.
Ref:  8.

Avicennia germinans (L.) Stearn
USES:  Root: Aphrodisiac. Stem and Leaf: The French Guiana Palikur mix stem and leaf with a smaller amount of Rhabdadenia biflora and Nicotiana tabacum in a soothing remedy for stingray wounds.
CHEM:  Wood contains the naphthoquinone lepachol.
Ref:  2,160,192.

Citharexylum macrophyllum Poiret
USES:  Leaf: Among gold miners of St. Lucienne, French Guiana, the leaves are crushed and mixed with salt in a little water for a highly diuretic beverage used as a cholagogue and febrifuge.
CHEM: Plant contains flavone heterosides.
Ref: 2,160,192.

Citharexylum spinosum L.
USES: Stem: Young twigs are used in a decoction for children's thrush. Bark used in a decoction to treat colds.
Ref: 3,160.

Clerodendrum philippinum Schauer (*Clerodendrum fragrans* Willd.)
NAMES: Surinam: madan polan, madanpolan.
USES: Leaf: Decoction is reputedly a remedy for difficult cases of scabies.
Ref: 195,207.

Clerodendrum thomsoniae Balf.
USES: Leaf and Flower: Pounded and applied to bruises and cuts in Guyana.
Ref: 160.

Clerodendron cf. thomsonae Balf.
NAME: Guyana Patamona; ku-mae-yik.
USES: Leaf: Macerated leaves are used as a shampoo to prevent scaling of the scalp, and to get rid of dandruff, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

Cornutia pyramidata L.
NAME: French Guiana: bois-savane.
USES: Whole plant: Emollient and coolant.
Ref: 154.

Lantana camara L.
**Leaf**: Leaf is used for a calmative, stimulant, insecticide, febrifuge, pectoral and grippe remedy; mixed with leaves of *Hedychium coronarium* as a febrifuge; a decoction, bath or infusion as a febrifuge specifically for children. Mixed with leaves of *Cymbopogon citratus* in a tea to treat colds, hypertension and malarial fever. Vulnerary; sudorific tea from leaves is slightly bitter, cephalic and carminative; fortifying bath is prepared from cooled and boiled leaves. Decoction of leaves is injected for inflammations of the uterus. In a preparation inhaled for asthma. Leaves ingested for colic. In remedies for scabies, skin rashes, swellings, contusions, stomach pain, rheumatism, antiseptic on cuts, and in Surinam Saramaccan herbal baths. Leaves are boiled, and the water drunk as an anti-asthmatic, anti-malarial, anti-pyretic and as a treatment for whooping cough or for back pain, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves are boiled, and the water used for washing the skin as a treatment for cold sweat or the water drunk for treating colds or coughs, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated leaves are boiled with water and used for treating “bush yaws” and sores, by the Guyana Patamona. **Leaf and Flower**: In Guyana, a bitter tea made from the leaves and buds is used for treating influenza, and to cleanse the blood. Infusion with honey and tafia for coughs and pains. Used for coughs and colds, hemorrhage, and treating sores in NW Guyana. **Part unspecified**: Used as an anti-malarial by Amerindians at Kurupukari, Guyana. **CHEM**: Unripe fruit contains belladone alkaloids causing intoxication in children, and lantadenes A and B (triterpenic acids) causing gastrointestinal or liver problems and photosensitivity (133). Lantana poisoning in an animal may damage its liver, gall bladder, and kidneys (3). Seed-oil is anthelmintic (10). **Leaf** contains lantanine (195). **Ref**: 2,3,4,120,154,160,168,173,190,193,195,234,245,237,238.

**Lantana camara** L. var. *aculeata* (L.) Moldenke (*Lantana aculeata* L.)


**USES**: Whole plant: Decoction for tetanus, rheumatism, malaria, atony of abdominal viscera; aromatic, antispasmodic. Stem and Leaf: Used to treat colds and coughs in Guyana. Infusion is calmative, aromatic. **Leaf**: Infusion is stomachic, digestive, mental stimulant. **Stem**: In French Guiana, shoots are macerated in Malaga wine for treating children's aphthae.


**Lippia alba** (Miller) N.E. Brown (*Lantana alba* Miller; *Lippia geminata* H.B.K.)


**USES**: **Leaf**: In French Guiana, a well-sugared infusion is drunk for relief of heart (cardiac) problems and to soothe the tachycardia. In Guyana, a decoction is made into a tea to remedy influenza. In Surinam, the aromatic leaves are used in herbal baths, to cure fevers and severe stomach pain, and to cleanse the bladder.

**CHEM**: Plant contains essential oil composed principally of dihydrocarvone. Compounds also include limonene, pinene, linalol, and camphor. **Ref**: 2,3,12,160,193,195.
**Lippia micromera** Schauer  
**Names:** Guyana: coarse thyme, fine podina, fineleaf thyme, small thyme, Spanish thyme, thyme.  
**Uses:** Whole plant: Infusion is drunk as an antiemetic tea. Leaf: Used for treating coughs and colds in NW Guyana.  
Ref: 3,160,245.

**Lippia sp.**  
**Name:** Guyana Patamona: ah-pu-row-rai-yik.  
**Uses:** Leaf: Leaves are warmed and tightly strapped around the joints and other affected areas as a treatment for aches and pains, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 3, 160, 237.

**Petrea bracteata** Steudel  
**Uses:** Stem: Decoction of bark is used to cure an illness of Surinam Tirio children, which is believed caused by the act of killing an armadillo by the child's father. Leaf: Ash from burned leaves is rubbed on the legs by the Surinam Tirio to make them stronger.  
Ref: 8,160,192.

**Petrea kohautiana** K. Presl  
**Name:** FG Creole: liane gris.  
**Uses:** Stem: The French Guiana Wayapi use crude sap obtained from the grated or macerated stem for a resolutive to soothe wounds and burns.  
**Notes:** Previously unidentified specimens cited in Ref: 2 (p. 425) have since been determined as this species (cf. Ref: 160, p. 58).  
Ref: 2,8,160.

**Phyla sp.**  
**Name:** Guyana Patamona: kwah-wuk-ki-ma-yik.  
**Uses:** Leaf: Leaves are boiled with water and drunk as a treatment for high fevers, colds or coughing, by the Guyana Patamona.  
Ref: 2,160.

**Priva lappulacea** (L.) Pers.  
**Uses:** Whole plant: Pulverised and mixed with a little salt for a cataplasm placed on strains and sprains.  
Ref: 2,160.
Stachytarpheta cayennensis (L.C. Rich.) Vahl (Stachytarpheta dichotoma (Ruiz & Pavon) Vahl)
USES: Whole plant: Boiled and the liquid drunk as a tea to treat "pressure" (high blood pressure), hypertension and thrush. Used for treating hypertension in NW Guyana. Root, Stem and Leaf: In a decoction used as a bath to remedy grippe, headache, fractures. Medicine for wounds and toothache. Leaf: For a resolutive cataplasm. Infusion for a cholagogue, purgative and antidyserteric. Leaf-juice used to treat eye infections in Guyana, and for colic and dysentery pain in French Guiana. Juice from macerate leaves is applied to the affected area to treat bacterial infection, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves are crushed, boiled and the awater used as an herbal bath, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaves are boiled, and the water used as a treatment for chicken pox, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated leaves are boiled and used for washing the skin as a treatment for measles, by the Guyana Patamona. Used for treating diabetes and malaria in NW Guyana. Latex: Latex is used for treating venereal diseases, especially syphilis, by the Guyana Patamona.
CHEM: Contains the iridoid ipolamiide (134).
Ref: 2,3,154,160,193,208,237,245.

Stachytarpheta jamaicensis (L.) Vahl (Verbena jamaicensis L.)
USES: Whole plant: Decoction as a bath to remedy grippe and headache; liver ailments. In preparations for diarrhoea, dysentery, diabetes, low blood pressure, fractures; seedling is a mild purgative. Root: Depurative. Leaf: For a resolutive cataplasm; astringent. Juice for colic, pain of dysentery. Stew of crushed leaves is used against gonorrhoea and to retard perspiration. Infusion for a cholagogue, purgative and antidyserteric. In French Guiana, an infusion is drunk three times daily as an hypotensive; decoction with sodium sulphate is drunk to remedy cutaneous eruptions. Used for treating skins burns and for hypertension in NW Guyana.
CHEM: Contains the iridoid ipolamiide, as well as tarpetalin, stachytarphine and dopamine, the latter active on the central nervous system. Leaf contains flavone pigments and choline (3,134,135). Leaf yields gamma-amino butyric acid, an hypertensive (3).
Ref: 2,3,4,7,154,160,168,193,195,245.

VIOLACEAE

Hybanthus calceolaria (L.) G.K. Schulze (Hybanthus ipecacuanha (L.) Baillon ex Laness.; Ionidium ipecacuanha (L.) Vent.; Ionidium itoubou (Aublet) Steudel; Viola calceolaria L.; Viola ipecacuanha L.; Viola itoubou Aublet)
USES: Whole plant: Used as a purgative or an emetic in Guyana. Decoction drunk as an antitussive. Root: Antidysenteric, vomitive, emetic and purgative; for gout. Substitute for the drug ipecacuanha.
CHEM: An important source of the drug ipecac, of which the other important source is *Cephaelis ipecacuanha* (Rubiaceae). Contains the alkaloid emetine, which functions as an emetic.
Ref: 2,7,154,168.

*Ionidium glutinosum* Vent. (*Ionidium parviflorum* Vent.)
NAME: FG Creole: ipeca.
USES: Root: Purgative, a violent vomitive; employed against tubercular elephantiasis, which is known as "cocobaye" in French Guiana.
NOTES: Plant introduced from Argentina to French Guiana.
Ref: 154.

*Ionidium polygalaefolia* Vent. (*Viola polygalaefolia* (Vent.) Poiret)
USES: Root: A vomitive given to nursing infants. Recommended for the curing of whooping cough.
NOTES: Plant is said to be introduced from Mexico to French Guiana.
Ref: 154,168.

*Noisettia orchidiflora* (Rudge) Gingins (*Noisettia longifolia* Kunth)
USES: Root: Vomitive. Used as an ipecac substitute in French Guiana.
Ref: 154.

*Rinorea flavescens* (Aublet) Kuntze (*Alsodeia flavescens* (Aublet) Spreng.)
USES: Stem: Bark is a febrifuge; bitter astringent.
Ref: 154.

*Rinorea pubiflora* (Benth.) Sprague & Sandwith
USES: Stem: The Surinam Tirio scrape the bark and rub it on insect stings to eliminate pain and prevent swelling. Surinam Tirio women wash with a cold water infusion of the bark to "fall out of love".
Ref: 8,192.

*Rinorea* cf. *pubiflora* (Benth.) Sprague & Sandwith
NAME: Surinam Tirio and Wayana: ku-run-yuh.
USES: Stem and Leaf: Rasped bark is combined with leaves in a decoction used as a wash to treat broken bones. Stem: Cold water infusion of bark is used by the Surinam Tirio to treat fevers.
Ref: 8.

VISCACEAE

**Phoradendron crassifolium** (Pohl ex DC.) Eichl.
USES: Leaf: Leaves are boiled and the water drunk as an anti-asthmatic, as an anti-tuberculosis, as medication for whooping cough or “baboon” cough, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from macerated leaves is applied to cuts and wounds to stop bleeding, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf and Stem: Macerated leaves and stem are boiled and used as an antiseptic for wounds and sores, by the Guyana Patamona. Juice from macerated leaves and stem is applied onto persistent sores for healing, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Phoradendron perrottetii** (DC.) Eichl.
USES: Leaf: Used to treat malaria, and also for sprains, thrush and venereal disease in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

**Phoradendron piperoides** (Kunth) Trel.
USES: Whole plant: Plant is boiled, and the water drunk as a treatment for “baboon cough” or whooping cough, by the Guyana Patamona. Leaf: Leaves are warmed and used as an analgesic for hard boils, by the Guyana Patamona. Macerated leaves are warmed and applied onto sores for healing, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Phoradendron** sp.
NAME: Guyana Patamona: ouck-quo-yik.
USES: Leaf: Macerated leaves are wrapped in a piece of cloth and used as a poultice for sores, by the Guyana Patamona.
Ref: 237.

**Phoradendron** spp.
USES: Whole plant: Same uses in French Guiana as given for *Oryctanthus florulentus* (Loranthaceae). Leaf: Juice used with a pinch of salt as a children's purgative in Guyana.
Ref: 2,9.

**VITACEAE**

*Cissus erosa* L.C. Rich.
USES: Stem and Leaf: The French Guiana Palikur make a plaster for its analgesic and resolutive properties as applied to soothe the ulcers of leishmaniasis and wounds of the stingray (*Paratrygon* sp.). Stem: Sap is drunk to reduce fever. Leaf: Crushed leaves applied externally to treat snakebite, ulcers and thrush. Whole plant: Liana crushed and rubbed on centipede stings by the Surinam Akuriyo.
CHEM: Fruit contains anthocyanins.
Ref: 2,3,8.

*Cissus verticillata* (L.) Nicolson & Jarvis (*Cissus sicyoides* L.)
USES: Stem: In French Guiana and Guyana, the mildly diuretic sap issuing from the cut stem is drunk as a refreshment or to reduce fever. Leaf: Crushed leaves are applied externally to treat snakebite, thrush, ulcers, and to hasten the opening of boils. Used for sores and swelling in NW Guyana.
Ref: 3,154,193,195,245.

**VOCHYSIACEAE**

*Qualea rosea* Aublet
USES: Resin: Employed as a purgative in French Guiana.
Ref: 154,192.

*Ruizterania albiflora* (Warm.) Marcano-Berti (*Qualea albiflora* Warm.)
NAME: Guyana Patamona: queck-yik.
USES: Bark: Bark is boiled and the water used to treat snakebite as an anti-venom, by the Guyana Patamona.
**Vochysia guianensis** Aublet  
**Names:** FG Creole: acacia male, couali, couari.  
**Uses:** **Stem:** Fresh, finely grated bark is used on teeth as a dental analgesic by the French Guiana Wayapi. Used for toothaches in NW Guyana.  
**Chem:** The leaf of *Vochysia* accumulates aluminum, up to a significant 1 percent of its tissue. Fruit contains vochysine, an unusual pyrrolidinoflavon composed of an alkaloid and a flavan (135A).  
*Ref: 2,245.*

**Vochysia surinamensis** Stafleu  
**Names:** Guyana Arawak: iteballi. Guyana Wapisiana: deokunud.  
**Uses:** **Stem:** Fresh, finely grated bark is used on teeth as a dental analgesic by the French Guiana Wayapi. In Guyana, the inner bark is powdered in a decoction to cleanse ulcers and relieve sore eyes.  
*Ref: 2,48,192.*

**XYRIDACEAE**

**Abolboda americana** (Aublet) Lanjouw  
**Uses:** **Root and Leaf:** Boiled together for a leprosy medication in French Guiana. **Leaf:** In French Guiana, leaves are soaked in vinegar, then crushed and used to remedy impetigo.  
*Ref: 154.*

**ZINGIBERACEAE**

**Aframomum melegueta** (Roscoe) K. Schum.  
**Names:** Guyana: grains of paradise, Guinea pepper. Surinam Creole: nengrekondre-pepre, nengre kondre pepre, ningre kondre pepre, ningre-kondre-pepre.  
**Uses:** **Whole plant:** Macerated in a decoction used to treat menstrual pain. Macerated with *Justicia secunda* in a decoction used as a laxative and a general medicine. **Leaf:** Expressed juice is used to treat scrofula in Surinam. **Seed:** In Surinam, used as a medicine for head colds and rheumatism. Seeds, usually preserved in brandy, are chewed to treat grippe and slight abdominal pains. Pulverised seeds used in an enema for constipation pains, and mixed with mustard oil in an ointment for arthritis pains. Decoction for constipation, menstrual pain. Pulverised with seeds of *Piper nigrum* and coconut oil for an ointment used to treat general swelling and pains. Seeds boiled with *Zingiber officinale* and used to treat colds and fever. Crushed in citron juice and employed for...
glandular problems. Used to treat coughs and colds, epilepsy, sore throats, stomachaches, gas, and for pain in NW Guyana.
CHEM: Seed contains the volatile oil paradol, which has antispasmodic, carminative and pectoral qualities. Plant contains the alkaloid piperine, essential oils and resins (136,137).
Ref: 3,14,158,190,193,195,245.

**Alpinia galanga** (L.) Willd.
NAME: Surinam Javan: laos.
USES: Rhizome: In an infusion to remedy stomach cramps and dysentery.
Ref: 158,195.

**Amomum** sp.
NAME: Guyana: ayetsa.
USES: Leaf: In Guyana, an infusion is used to treat pulmonary complaints.
Ref: 48.

**Curcuma longa** L.
USES: Rhizome: Grated and mixed with leaves of *Siparuna guianensis* and *Justicia pectoralis*, salt and rum, and used as a cataplasm for a vulnerary in treating sprains and bruises.
CHEM: Rhizome contains up to 50 percent starch. Plant is a source of curcumin, a choleretic drug (166).
Ref: 2.

**Curcuma xanthorrhiza** D. Dietr.
USES: Root: Used to alleviate pain and sprains in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

**Curcuma** spp.
NAME: Surinam: temoe.
USES: Rhizome: Surinam Javans use an infusion of the rhizome to treat stomach pain.
Ref: 195.

**Hedychium coronarium** J. Koenig
USES: Leaf: Mixed by the French Guiana Palikur with leaves of *Lantana camara* in an infusion or decoction having febrifuge properties.
NOTES: The Kubeo of Colombia use a root decoction for pain in the chest and arms. A leaf-tea for abdominal complaints is made by the Tukano Indians of Brazil (10).
Ref: 2.
**Renealmia alpinia** (Rottb.) Maas (*Renealmia exaltata* L fil.)


**USES:** Root: In a tea to treat heart problems manifested by shortness of breath. Decoction is drunk to induce vomiting and relieve stomach pains. In a syrup with sugar for remedying chest colds. Juice is used to treat eye diseases. Used for treating strained backs in NW Guyana. Stem: Shoot used for snakebite and stomachache in NW Guyana. Leaf: Decoction used as a fever-bath for pulmonary conditions and typhoid, and to wash hair to remove dandruff. Leaves are used in an infusion to treat dysentery, and in a herbal bath for strengthening the nerves. Used for hypertension in NW Guyana.

**CHEM:** Leaf contains proanthocyanins (3).

**Ref:** 3,12,45,158,193,195,234,245.

**Renealmia floribunda** K. Schum. (*Renealmia pedicellaris* Gleason)


**USES:** Whole plant: The Guyana Waiwai boil the whole plant and use the liquid as a wash to treat fevers. Root: Decoction used as an emetic to bring up phlegm from throat, and to alleviate consumption. Root is boiled with water and drunk as a cure for malarial infection, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruit: Fruits are used as an anti-fungal agent for curing ringworms and “lata”, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruits are rubbed on the skin to get rid of white spots, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruit is crushed, and used as an anti-fungal or as an anti-pruritic, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruit is crushed, mixed with water, and used to treat dermatosis, by the Guyana Patamona. Fruits are crushed, and the juice used to treat genital herpes or to treat sores, by the Guyana Patamona.

**CHEM:** The major constituent of the essential oil is beta-pinene (138).

**Ref:** 8,32,237.

**Renealmia cf. floribunda** K. Schum.

**NAMES:** Surinam Sranan: bosmasoesa, kapasi masoesa.

**USES:** Leaf: The Surinam Tirio drink a decoction of leaves to treat coughs. Liquid squeezed out of boiled leaves is inhaled by the Surinam Tirio to treat colds.

**Ref:** 8.

**Renealmia guianensis** Maas

**NAMES:** FG Creole: gingembre-bois, gingembre-cochon, millepis, quatre-epices.

**USES:** Root: Decoction is antimalarial. Stem and Leaf: Decoction is used in a bath or wash to alleviate fatigue, as a febrifuge, and as a disinfectant for itches, sores, and the ulcers of leishmaniasis. Leaf: For a rarely employed oral abortifacient, the French Guiana Wayapi mix the leaves with leaves of *Citrus aurantiifolia* and *Ocimum micranthum* in a concentrated decoction. Inflorescence: Mixed with the inflorescence of *Lantana camara* in a tea-like decoction to counteract flatulence.

**Ref:** 2,8.
**Renealmia monosperma** Miq.
USES: Root; Stem and Leaf: Same as those given for *Renealmia guianensis*.
Ref: 2,8.

**Renealmia orinocensis** Rusby
USES: Stem: Shoot used for stomachache in NW Guyana.
Ref: 245.

**Renealmia pyramidale** (Lam.) Maas (*Amomum pyramidale* Lam.; *Renealmia racemosa* (L.) A. Richard)
NAME: French Guiana: balisier genipa.
USES: Rhizome: Aromatic. Macerated and mixed with rum or vermouth, and the resulting beverage is drunk to alleviate rheumatic pain.
NOTES: Plant introduced from the Lesser Antilles to French Guiana.
Ref: 154.

**Zingiber cassumunar** Roxb.
NAME: Surinam Javan: bengle.
USES: Rhizome: Mixed with other herbs in a remedy for stomachache and cramps.
Ref: 158.

**Zingiber officinale** Roscoe
USES: Whole plant: Guyana Waiwai use the boiled plant as a fever wash. Boiled with *Aframomum melegueta* seeds and used to treat colds and fever. In a decoction with flowers of *Senna alata* for grippe and as an abortifacient. Boiled with leaves of *Cymbopogon citratus* and *Bambusa vulgaris* and the liquid consumed to treat fever and ague. Boiled in a decoction with the fruit of *Justicia secunda* and *Piper nigrum* for a remedy to menstrual pains. A preparation containing ginger, known as "fiery-jack ointment", is made in Guyana. Root: Used to treat hemorrhage and malaria in NW Guyana.
Rhizome: French Guiana Palikur use it in a plaster to relieve headaches; digestive; rubbed on rheumatic areas; sudorific. In Surinam, the rhizome is mixed with other spices for asthma, cramps and stomachache. Rhizome is boiled and the water used as an anti-pyretic, by the Guyana Patamona. Rhizome is used for making beverages or for flavoring food, by the Guyana Patamona. Rhizome is grated, mixed with water, and dropped in the nostrils for treating colds or dropped into the eyes for curing migraine headaches, by the Guyana Patamona. Rhizome and Leaf: In a decoction with parched seeds and leaves of *Jatropha curcas* for use in treating menstrual pains.
CHEM: Extract shows cardiotonic activity (3).
Ref: 2,3,14,16,154,190,193,195,245,237.
**Zingiber zerumbet** (L.) J.E. Smith

**NAMES:** FG Creole: chichima. FG Wayapi: yamalatay.

**USES:** Root: The French Guiana Wayapi grind the root into a decoction used as a carminative to remedy colic.

**CHEM:** Essential oil contains zerumbone, which has spasmolytic and bacteriostatic properties.

**Ref:** 2.