

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Carica pentagona

BABACO is an evergreen shrub. Native to Ecuador it has long yellow fruit that are star-shaped in cross-section.

It is also known as *Babago* (Swedish), *Chamburo* (Spanish), Mountain papaya, and *Särmäpapaija* (Finnish).

Pentagona means 'five-angled'.

Some authorities suspect that babaco could be a hybrid plant, possibly between an Ecuadorean fruit and the mountain papaya (*Carica candamarcensis*).

The fruit (which can be a foot long and are held to have a taste reminiscent of strawberries (*Potentilla*), pineapples (*Ananas comosus*) and papaya (*Carica papaya*)) are said to be good for the digestion. They are eaten raw and made into jams, sauces and preserves, as well as being pulped for a refreshing drink.