Eugenia luschnathiana

[Synonyms: Eugenia duckeana, Eugenia lucescens, Phyllocalyx luschnathianus]

PITOMBA (English, French, Portuguese) is an evergreen shrub or tree. Native to Brazil, it has white flowers with many stamens.

Luschnathiana probably commemorates Bernhard Luschnath, a gardener who was certainly collecting plants in Brazil in the 1830s.

The sweet and aromatic, orange-yellow berries (that are said to have a taste reminiscent of apricots Prunus armeniaca) can be eaten raw or made into preserves and jams – or squeezed for their juice. Occasionally pitomba is cultivated locally for the fruit but despite attracting some commercial interest these are rarely eaten outside Brazil still. Pitomba has been cultivated as an ornamental plant.