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Gustavia superba

[Synonyms : *Gustavia superba* var. *salviniae*, *Japarandiba superba*, *Pirigara superba*]

SACHAMANGO (Colombian, English and Panamanian) is an evergreen tree. Native to South America (from south-western Costa Rica to north-western Colombia), it has large, deep pink or purple tipped and speckled, white flowers with many stamens fused to a central ring.

It is also known as *Membrillo* (Colombian and Panamanian), and *Paco* (Colombian).

Superba is Latin (haughty, exalted, proud) meaning ‘superb, splendid, brilliant or magnificent’.

The rounded green to brown fruit which have avocado-like greasy yellowish-orange pulp are boiled or roasted, and locally are eaten with rice.

Sachamango wood is used locally for building.

Medicinally, local herbalists have long used a leaf decoction as an antidote for arrow poisoning (something authorities have suggested that many Spanish conquistadores may have been thankful for).