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Jacaranda copaia

[Synonyms : *Bignonia caroba*, *Bignonia copaia*, *Bignonia procera*, *Jacaranda caroba*, *Jacaranda copaia*, *Jacaranda copaia* subsp. *spectabilis*, *Jacaranda procera*, *Jacaranda spectabilis*, *Jacaranda superba*]

CAROBA is a tree. Native to South America it has small, liver-coloured flowers.

It is also known as *Abey* (Venezuelan), *Carnauba da matta* (Brazilian), Carob tree, *Chingale* (Colombian), *Copaia* (French Guianese), *Cupay* (Venezuelan), *Faux simarouba* (French Guianese), *Goebaja* (Surinamese), *Gualandai* (Panamanian), *Para-para* (Brazilian), and Red jacaranda.

Copaia is derived from the genus name *Copaifera* meaning ‘like plants in that genus’.

The wood has been used for manufacturing plywood, and fibreboard and matches, as well as pulp (not least for paper). It has been used for building interiors and made into parts of furniture, and into boxes and crates.

Locally caroba’s leaves have been used medicinally for treating syphilis and other venereal diseases.