

*Pimenta racemosa*

[Synonyms : *Amomis acris*, *Amomis acris* var. *grandifolia*, *Amomis acris* var. *obtusata*, *Amomis acris* var. *parvifolia*, *Amomis caryophyllata*, *Amomis caryophyllata* var. *grisea*, *Amomis grisea*, *Amomis oblongata*, *Amomis oblongata* var. *occidentalis*, *Amomis pimento*, *Amomis pimento* var. *jamaicensis*, *Amomis pimento* var. *surinamensis*, *Amomis pimentoides*, *Caryophyllus racemosus*, *Eugenia tabasco*, *Myrcia acris*, *Myrcia pimentoides*, *Myrtus acris*, *Myrtus caryophyllata*, *Myrtus caryophyllus*, *Myrtus citrifolia*, *Myrtus pimenta*, *Myrtus pimentoides*, *Myrtus tabasco*, *Pimenta acris*, *Pimenta acris* var. *grisea*, *Pimenta acris* var. *pimentoides*, *Pimenta acuminata*, *Pimenta citrifolia*, *Pimenta dioica* var. *tabasco*, *Pimenta officinalis* var. *cumanensis*, *Pimenta officinalis* var. *tabasco*, *Pimenta pimento*, *Pimenta racemosa* var. *grisea*, *Pimenta racemosa* var. *racemosa*, *Pimenta tabasco*, *Pimentus cotinifolia*]

**BAYBERRY TREE** is an evergreen tree. Native to tropical America it has tiny white flowers. It is also known as American myrtle, *Ausú* (Spanish), Bayberry, *Bay boom* (Dutch), Bay leaf tree, Bay oil tree, *Bayölbaum* (German), *Bayrumbaum* (German), Bay rum tree, Bay tree, *Berrón* (Dominican Republic, Spanish), *Bois d'Inde* (French), Celemon bush, Cinnamon tree, *Fèy esans jirof* (Creole), *Girofle* (French), *Kappalamulaku* (Malayalam), *Kattukkarava* (Tamil), *Limoncillo* (Puerto Rican, Spanish), *Malagueta* (Guatemalan, Spanish), Oil of bay, *Piment couronné* (French), Pimento leaves, *Pimienta de Tabasco* (Cuban, Spanish), *Sinamoni* (Tongan), West Indian bay tree, West Indian clove, Wild cinnamon, and Wild clove.

The leaves are distilled to yield a fragrant brown oil variously known as Oil of Myrcia, Oil of Bay or Oleum Myrciae. 100 lb. of leaves yield about 1 lb. of oil.

*Racemosa* is derived from Latin *racemus* (cluster) meaning 'with a spike of stalked flowers up the stem'.

The leaves yield the bay oil that can be found in some barbers' shops and in skin conditioners too. Originally the wilted leaves were steeped in rum and water before distillation, which may explain the name 'Bay Rum'. Now the rum is omitted and the solutions used are about 1% of the alcoholic preparation.

Apart from general carpentry, the wood has provided a high quality fuel.

A tincture of the oil is used by the toiletry industry today for scenting toilet soap, shaving soap, Bay rum hair wash and toilet waters. It is also an ingredient used by the perfumery industry in perfume. The wood is made into walking sticks.

Medicinally, powdered fruit have been used in India to treat diarrhoea, indigestion and wind.