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Platonia esculenta

[Synonyms : *Aristoclesia esculenta*, *Platonia insignis*]

BACURY (Brazilian, English) is a deciduous tree. Native to Brazil and the Guianas it has small, rose-coloured flowers with many stamens.

It is also known as *Bacupari* (Portuguese), *Bacur* (English, Spanish), *Bacuri* (Brazilian, Portuguese, Spanish), *Bacuri assu* (Brazilian), *Bacuri do Pará* (Brazilian), *Bakuri*, *Bakury*, *Bulandim* (Portuguese), *Geelhart* (Surinamese), *Maniballi* (Guyanese), *Matazona* (Spanish), *Packoeri* (Surinamese), *Pacoury-uva* (Brazilian), *Pacuri* (Brazilian), *Pakoeri* (Surinamese), *Pakouri* (Guyanese), *Pakuri* (Guyanese), *Paocuri* (French Guianese), and *Parcouri* (French).

The bark and fruit skin contain resinous yellow latex. The fruit can weigh as much as 2 lb. The seeds yield an oil.

Esculenta is Latin (eatable).

The orange-like yellow fruit are sold in local markets. Their fibrous, pleasant smelling and tasting, creamy-white pulp is eaten raw or made into compôtes, ice-creams, pies, yoghurts, juices, sherbets or preserves (including marmalade). The skin is also used for making sweetmeats.

The seed oil (known as Bacury kernel oil) has been used for making soap and candles.

The durable, darkly streaked, brownish-yellow wood from this tree has been used for veneering, joinery and carving – and also for general construction and flooring.

The bark's latex has been used in veterinary medicine in Guyana.

Medicinally, the seed oil has been an ingredient in treatments for some skin disorders.