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Poraqueiba sericea

[Synonyms : *Poraqueiba acuminata*]

UMARI (English, Portuguese, Spanish) is a tree. Native to Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and western Brazil, it has small, black, green, red or yellow fruit.

It is also known as *Guacure* (Spanish), *Humari* (Amazonian), *Mari* (Portuguese), *Umari d'Amazonie* (French), *Umari rouge* (French), *Umari roxo* (Portuguese), and *Umara do Amazonas* (Portuguese).

Sericea is derived from Latin *serica* (silk garments) meaning ‘silky’.

Locally the thin, light orange fruit flesh has been used as a butter substitute. The edible oily white nut has provided starch. The edible oil extracted from the nut has been used in Brazil for frying fish..

This wood has been made into charcoal and has also been used for building construction and decking.

Medicinally, a leaf infusion has provided a local remedy for dysentery and the powdered seed has been applied to skin rashes. Some authorities also note that a part of the tree is used locally in Amazonia as a contraceptive.