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Poulsenia armata

[Synonyms : *Coussapoa rekoi*, *Inophloeum aromaticum*, *Olmedia armata*, *Poulsenia aculeata*]

MASTATE (English, Panamanian) is a tree. Native from Mexico to Bolivia (Central America to western South America) it has yellow flowers and green fruit.

It is also known as *Abababite* (Mexican), *Carnero* (Mexican), *Cocuá* (Panamanian), *Corbon* (Colombian), *Cucua* (Colombian), *Llanchama* (Amazonian), *Majagua* (Ecuadorian), *Tumu* (Honduran, Nicaraguan), and *Yanchama* (Amazonian).

This wood contains a significant amount of silica which bluntens tools quickly.

Armata is derived from Latin *arma* (armour) meaning ‘spiny or thorny’.

The Central American Sumu Indians of Honduras and Nicaragua used the inner bark for making cloth – and it was used locally for making hammocks, mats, blankets and clothing.

The distinctive smelling, yellowish-white wood (it turns brownish upon exposure to air) has been used for general internal construction work.