

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Psidium cattleianum subsp. *lucidum*

YELLOW STRAWBERRY GUAVA is a variety of evergreen shrub or tree. It has fragrant white flowers with many stamens.

It is also known as Giant yellow guava, and Lemon guava.

Cattleianum commemorates an English horticulturist, William Cattley (1788-1835) who imported exotic plants (especially from the Americas). It seems that his interest in these particular orchids was accidental. The story goes that a plant hunter called Swainson sent a consignment of tropical plants from Brazil to England packed in indiscriminate organic material to try and keep them moist during the voyage. When Cattley received the shipment in 1818 some say he threw out the packaging but noticed that some of it was actually sprouting, while others suggest he thought the extraneous organic matter was needed to grow his new American acquisitions. Whichever, he salvaged the secondary plants and later that year, no doubt to his delight, was rewarded by a fragrant, spectacular bloom. He suspected it was an unknown type of orchid and in 1820 he employed a young Englishman to catalogue and illustrate his plant collection, a man who was destined to become a highly respected English botanist, horticulturist, orchid specialist, botanical artist and author, John Lindley (1799-1865). In 1832 Lindley received his doctorate from the University of Munich and published the first scientific description, illustration and classification of Cattley's plant (which was probably *Cattleya labiata*) naming the new *Cattleya* genus after his old employer. *Lucidum* is Latin (glossy, shining, bright, clear, transparent).