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*Theobroma*

*Malvaceae*

[*Byttneriaceae*/*Sterculiaceae*]

*Theobroma* is derived from Greek *theo-* (god) and *-broma* (food) components meaning ‘food of the gods’ with reference to the fruit.

Authorities note that, like other species such as coffee (*Coffea*) or soya (*Glycine*), some members of the cocoa genus are becoming extinct in the wild mainly because of land reclamation. This is serious as their loss could threaten the future potential of the cultivated crop. Their genes are needed for revitalization.