



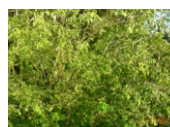
LabCat

The international division
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PLANT EXTRACT

Myrciaria dubia (H.B.K.) McVaugh



CAMU-CAMU

Camu-camu is used mainly for its edible fruits. It is a low-growing shrub which grows to a height of about 2-3m. It produces round, light orange-colored fruits about the size of lemons, which contain a significant amount of vitamin C.

Its great economical potential resides in the fact that it is an excellent source of vitamin C (ascorbic acid). 2,400 to 3,000 mg/100g have been quantified in the pulp. Therefore, camu-camu is one of the richest sources of vitamin C.

The distribution of camu-camu extends from the center of the state of Pará in Brazil, along the mid and upper Amazon River to the eastern part of Peru; in the north it appears in the casiquiare and the upper and middle Orinoco River. In Brazil it is found in Rondônia along the Maçangana and Urupa Rivers and in Amazonas, in the municipalities of Manaus and Manacapuru and along the Javari, Madeira and Negro Rivers.

The harvest of Camu-camu is carried out during the months of December and January and consists of the manual selective collection of the ripe fruits. In this process, the fruits are directly deposited in wood boxes that are installed inside the boats and then transported to the place of selection, where the fruits are washed, have their pulps removed and frozen. Because Camu-camu is a highly perishable fruit, the processing has to be quick, in order to avoid deterioration and loss of the organoleptic characteristics of the pulp.

In order to guarantee a safe and high quality raw material supply for the production of extracts, a firm purchase schedule is required and should be presented to the producers, at the latest, by the second quarter of November. This careful planning allows for the purchase of closed loads of the frozen pulp, decreasing the relative costs of transport as well as avoiding the increase of the raw material/extract prices due to supply/demand fluctuations.

Camu-camu is energizing, mood-lifting and highly effective in strengthening the immune system.



Harvesting

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

Characteristics:

Camu-camu dry extract with 20% vitamin C.

Benefits:

Source of vitamin C; antioxidant properties.
Protection against colds/flu.
For skin care - anti-aging.

Applications:

Soft drinks, juices, energy drinks, candies,
cereal bars, nutraceuticals, dairy products.

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