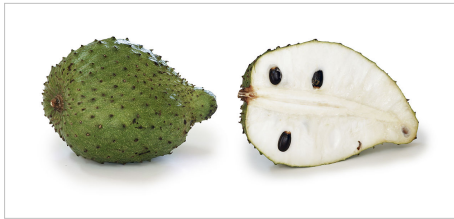


# Annona muricata

## *Annona muricata*



Soursop fruit on its tree

### Scientific classification

|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Kingdom:    | Plantae            |
| (unranked): | Angiosperms        |
| (unranked): | Magnoliids         |
| Order:      | Magnoliales        |
| Family:     | Annonaceae         |
| Genus:      | <i>Annona</i>      |
| Species:    | <i>A. muricata</i> |

### Binomial name

*Annona muricata*  
L.

### Synonyms

*Annona macrocarpa* Wercklé  
*Annona crassiflora* Mart.  
*Guanabanus muricatus* M.Gómez  
*Guanabanus muricatus* (L.) M.Gómez  
*Annona bonplandiana* Kunth  
*Annona cearensis* Barb. Rodr.  
*Annona muricata* Vell.

*Annona muricata* is a member of the family of custard apple trees called Annonaceae and a species of the genus *Annona* known mostly for its edible fruits. *Annona muricata* produces a fruit that is usually called soursop due to its slightly acidic taste when ripe. *A. muricata* trees are native to the Caribbean and Central America but are now widely cultivated - and in some areas, escaping and living on their own - in tropical climates throughout the world.

## Common names

- English: Brazilian pawpaw, soursop, prickly custard apple, Soursapi
- Ewe: *Evo*
- Template:Lang-ad
- Akan: *Aborofontungu*
- Spanish: *guanábana, guanábano, sinini, anona, cache, catoche, catuche, zapote agrio*
- Chamorro: *laguaná, laguana, laguanaha, syasyap*
- German: *Sauersack, Stachelannone, Annona, Flaschenbaum*
- Fijian: *sarifa, seremaia*
- French: *anone muriquee, cachiman épineux, corossol épineux, anone, cachiman épineux, caichemantier, coeur de boeuf, corossol, corossolier epineux*
- Haitian Creole: *kwosol*
- Indonesian: *sirsak*
- Malay: *Durian Belanda*
- Māori: *kātara'apa, kātara'apa papa'ā, naponapo taratara*
- Dutch: *zuurzak*
- Portuguese: *graviola, araticum-grande, araticum-manso, coração-de-rainha, jaca-de-pobre, jaca-do-Pará, anona, curassol, graviola, pinha azeda*
- Samoan: *sanalapa, sasalapa, sasalapa*
- Swahili: *mstafeli*
- Tahitian: *tapotapo papa'a, tapotapo urupe*
- Vietnamese: *mãng cầu Xiêm, măng cầu gai*
- Filipino: *guyabano*
- Chinese: 刺果番荔枝

## Description

### Habit

*Annona muricata* is a small, upright, evergreen tree that can grow to about 4 metres (13 ft) tall.

### Stems and leaves

The young branches are hairy.

Leaves are oblong to oval, 8 centimetres (3.1 in) to 16 centimetres (6.3 in) long and 3 centimetres (1.2 in) to 7 centimetres (2.8 in) wide. Glossy dark green with no hairs above, paler and minutely hairy to no hairs below.

The leaf stalks are 4 millimetres (0.16 in) to 13 millimetres (0.51 in) long and without hairs.

### Flowers

Flower stalks (peduncles) are 2 millimetres (0.079 in) to 5 millimetres (0.20 in) long and woody. They appear opposite from the leaves or as an extra from near the leaf stalk, each with one or two flowers, occasionally a third.

Stalks for the individual flowers (pedicels) are stout and woody, minutely hairy to hairless and 15 millimetres (0.59 in) to 20 millimetres (0.79 in) with small bractlets nearer to the base which are densely hairy.

Petals are thick and yellowish. Outer petals meet at the edges without overlapping and are broadly ovate, 2.8 centimetres (1.1 in) to 3.3 centimetres (1.3 in) by 2.1 centimetres (0.83 in) to 2.5 centimetres (0.98 in), tapering to a point with a heart shaped base. Evenly thick, covered with long, slender, soft hairs externally and matted finely with soft hairs within. Inner petals are oval shaped and overlap. 2.5 centimetres (0.98 in) to 2.8 centimetres (1.1 in) by 2 centimetres (0.79 in). Sharply angled and tapering at the base. Margins are comparatively thin, with fine matted soft hairs on both sides. The receptacle is conical and hairy. Stamens 4.5 millimetres (0.18 in) long and narrowly wedge-shaped. The connective-tip terminate abruptly and anther hollows are unequal. Sepals are quite thick and do not overlap. Carpels are linear and basally growing from one base. The ovaries are covered with dense reddish brown hairs, 1-ovuled, style short and stigma truncate.

#### Fruits and reproduction

Dark green, prickly (or bristled) fruits are egg-shaped and can be up to 30 centimetres (12 in) long, with a moderately firm texture. Flesh is juicy, acid, whitish and aromatic.

Abundant seeds the average weight of 1000 fresh seeds is 470 grams (17 oz) and had an average oil content of 24%. When dried for 3 days in 60 °C (140 °F) the average seed weight was 322 grams (11.4 oz) and were tolerant of the moisture extraction; showing no problems for long-term storage under reasonable conditions.

## Distribution

*Annona muricata* is tolerant of poor soil and prefers lowland areas between the altitudes of 0 metres (0 ft) to 1,200 metres (3,900 ft). It cannot stand frost.

#### Native

##### Neotropic:

**Caribbean:** Cuba, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Barbados

**Central America:** Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Belize

**South America:** Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador

**Africa:** Republic of Congo

## Toxicology



The compound annonacin, which is contained in the seeds of soursop, is a neurotoxin associated with neurodegenerative disease.

## Subspecies which are synonyms

- *Annona muricata* var. *borinquensis*

## References

### External links

-  Media related to *Annona muricata* at Wikimedia Commons
-  Data related to *Annona muricata* at Wikispecies
- "*Annona muricata* L." ([http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search\\_topic=TSN&search\\_value=18098](http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=18098)). Integrated Taxonomic Information System. Retrieved 18 March 2008.
- Robson, N. K. B. (1960). "Annonaceae by N. K. B. Robson" (<http://apps.kew.org/efloras/namedetail.do?flora=fz&taxon=286&nameid=961>). *Flora Zambesiaca* (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) **1**. Retrieved 2008-04-18.

- 
- UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research (2007-04-13). "*Annona muricata*" (<http://www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/potd/2007/04/annonamuricata.php>). *Botany Photo of the Day*. University of British Columbia. Retrieved 2008-04-18.
-

# Article Sources and Contributors

**Annona muricata** *Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?oldid=579763386> *Contributors:* Akira28, Alex Essilfie, Alexbrn, Andrewman327, Automatik, Badagnani, Bobrayner, CarolSpears, ChriKo, Cygnis insignis, Davidals, Dianewelsh, Dimwight, Dominus Vobisdu, Droll, EncycloPetey, Hesperian, Jem38, Jerem43, Lavateraguy, Muhammad Mahdi Karim, Natsubee, Nihonjoe, Patrickthelesser, Prokaryotes, Redaloes, Reginald Starchaser, RikSchuiling, Rjwilmsi, Scray, Stemonitis, Sugeesh, Taragui, Thailys, The Chronist, Topbanana, Vmenkov, WriterHound, 14 anonymous edits

# Image Sources, Licenses and Contributors

**file:Soursop, Annona muricata.jpg** *Source:* [http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Soursop\\_Anonna\\_muricata.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Soursop_Anonna_muricata.jpg) *License:* unknown *Contributors:* Julia W, Muhammad Mahdi Karim

**file:Annona muricata 1.jpg** *Source:* [http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Annona\\_muricata\\_1.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Annona_muricata_1.jpg) *License:* Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 *Contributors:* Caesius, CarolSpears, Damouns, FlickreviewR, Thierry Caro

**file:Commons-logo.svg** *Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Commons-logo.svg> *License:* logo *Contributors:* Anomie

**file:Wikispecies-logo.svg** *Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Wikispecies-logo.svg> *License:* logo *Contributors:* (of code) cs:User:-xfi-

# License

---

Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0  
[//creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)