

Soursop (*Annona muricata* L.):  
Composition, Nutritional Value,  
Medicinal Uses, and Toxicology

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1. INTRODUCTION

*Annona* is a genus of tropical fruit trees belonging to the family *Annonaceae*, of which there are approximately 119 species. Seven species and one hybrid are grown for domestic/commercial use [1]. *Annona muricata* L. is known as soursop in English-speaking countries and is referred to by numerous common names (Table 39.1) [2-6]. After the arrival of the Spanish in the Americas, the *Annona* species were distributed throughout the tropics [7]. Soursop trees are widespread in the tropics and frost-free subtropics of the world [8,9] and are found in the West Indies, North and South America, lowlands of Africa, Pacific islands, and Southeast Asia. The soursop fruit and other parts of the tree are considered to be underutilized. Information on the composition, nutritional value, medicinal uses, and

toxicology of the soursop fruit and plant is limited and scattered.