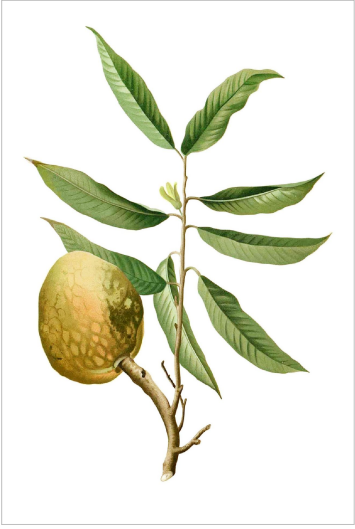



Annona reticulata

<i>Annona reticulata</i>	
	
Custard Apple or Wild Sweetsop	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Magnoliids
Order:	Magnoliales
Family:	Annonaceae
Genus:	<i>Annona</i>
Species:	<i>A. reticulata</i>
Binomial name	
<i>Annona reticulata</i> L.	
	

Native range of <i>A. reticulata</i>
Synonyms
<i>Annona humboldtiana</i> Kunth <i>Annona humboldtii</i> Dunal ^[1] <i>Annona excelsa</i> Kunth <i>Annona laevis</i> Kunth <i>Annona longifolia</i> Sessé & Moc. <i>Annona riparia</i> Kunth <i>Rollinia mucosa</i> (Jacq.) Baill. ^[2] <i>Rollinia deliciosa</i> Saff. <i>Annona mucosa</i> Jacq. <i>Rollinia orthopetala</i> A. DC. <i>Rollinia pulchrinervia</i> A. DC. <i>Rollinia sieberi</i> A. DC. ^[3]

Annona reticulata is a small deciduous or semi-evergreen tree in the plant family Annonaceae.^[4] It is best known for its fruit, called **custard-apple**, a name it shares with fruits of other species from the same genus: *A. cherimola*^[5] and *A. squamosa*^[6] or sometimes it is called **wild-sweetsop**, **bullock's-heart**, or **ox-heart**. The flavor of the fruit is sweet and pleasant, but less popular than that of *A. cherimola*.

Description

It is a small deciduous or semi-evergreen tree reaching 8 metres (26 ft) to 10 metres (33 ft) tall with an open, irregular crown.^[7]

Stems and leaves

The slender leaves are not hairy, straight and pointed at the apex (in some varieties wrinkled), 10 centimetres (3.9 in) to 20 centimetres (7.9 in) long and 2 centimetres (0.79 in) to 7 centimetres (2.8 in) wide.^[7]

Flowers

The yellow-green flowers are generally in clusters of three or four 2 centimetres (0.79 in) to 3 centimetres (1.2 in) diameter, with three long outer petals and three very small inner ones.^[7]

Fruits and reproduction

The fruit is variable in shape: heart-shaped or spherical. The size ranges from 7 centimetres (2.8 in) to 1 centimetre (0.39 in), depending on the cultivar. When ripe, the fruit is brown or yellowish, with red highlights and a varying degree of reticulation, depending again on the variety. The flesh varies from juicy and very aromatic to hard with a repulsive taste.^[7]

Distribution and habitat

Possibly a native of the Caribbean^[8] and Central America,^[1] *Annona reticulata* is now pantropical^[8] and can be found growing between altitudes of 0 metres (0 ft) to 1,500 metres (4,900 ft) in areas of Central America that have alternating seasons.^[7]

Cultivated and naturalized^[8] in many parts of the world including Southeast Asia, Taiwan, India (Bengali - Ata, Nona; Hindi - Sitaphal), Australia, and West Africa.

Native

Nearctic:

Central Mexico: Veracruz

Neotropic:

Central America: Belize, Chiapas, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama

Caribbean: Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Martinique, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Jamaica

Northern South America: Guyana, Venezuela

Brazil: Acre, Amazonas, Bahia, Mato Grosso, Minas Gerais, Para, Rio Grande do Sul, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo

Western South America: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay^{[3][9]}

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External links

- "*Annona reticulata*" (http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=18099). Integrated Taxonomic Information System. Retrieved 16 March 2008.
- "Species *Annona reticulata*" (<http://beta.uniprot.org/taxonomy/301862>). UniProt Consortium. Retrieved 2008-04-16.

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