Inga edulis

This article is about Inga edulis. For another plant often called "Ice-cream bean", see Pacay.

Inga edulis (eng. **ice-cream-bean**, **joaquiniquil**, Mex.

cuaniquil, **guama** or **guaba**) is a fruit native to South America. It is widely grown, especially by indigenous Amazonians, for shade, food, timber, medicine, and production of the alcoholic beverage *cachiri*. It is popular in Peru, Ecuador, Pernambuco-Brazil and Colombia.[1] The name 'inga' is derived from its name with the Tupí people of South America. In English they have been called "ice-cream beans" due to the sweet flavor and smooth texture of the pulp.

1 Description

Mature trees of *Inga edulis* reach 30 m (98 ft) high and 60 cm (2.0 ft) diameter at breast height, usually branching from below 3 m (9.8 ft). The branches form a broad, flat, moderately dense canopy. The pods contain black seeds which are embedded in a thick white juicy pulp that tastes slightly like vanilla ice cream.

2 Synonyms

This plant has a convoluted history of synonymy with *Inga vera*. The plants discussed under that name by Brenan and Kunth are actually *I. edulis*, whereas that based on the writings of Carl Ludwig Willdenow refers to the actual *I. vera*. *Inga edulis* in works referring back to authorities other than von Martius usually refers to *Inga feuilleei*.[2]

Synonyms of *Inga edulis* Mart.:

- *Feuilleea edulis* (Mart.) Kuntze[2]
- *Inga benthamiana* Meisn.[2]
- *Inga edulis* var. *grenadensis* Urb.
- *Inga minutula* (Schery) T.S.Elias
- *Inga scabriuscula* Benth.[2]
- *Inga vera* Kunth[2]
- *Inga vera sensu* Brenan[2]
- *Inga ynga* (Vell.) J.W.Moore[2]
- *Mimosa inga* L.
- *Mimosa ynga* Vell.[3]

3 Footnotes

[1] Duke (1983)

[2] ILDIS (2005)

[3] USDA (2007)

4 References

- Duke, James A. (1983): *Inga edulis* Mart. Crop Fact Sheet. Version of 07-JAN-1998. Retrieved 2007-DEC-17.

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- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) (2007): Germplasm Resources Information Network - *Inga edulis*. Retrieved 2007-DEC-18.

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