

PASSIFLORA QUADRANGULARIS Linn.

GRANADILLA

Local names: *Granadilla* (Sp., Tag.); *kasafloa* (Ilk.); *parola* (Ilk.); *square-stemmed passion flower* (Engl.).

Granadilla is planted for its fruit and as an ornamental vine. It is nowhere spontaneous. It was introduced from tropical America and is now pantropic in distribution.

This medicinal plant is a stout, smooth, herbaceous vine reaching a length of 10 to 15 meters. The stems are prominently 4-angled and narrowly winged. The leaves are entire, ovate to elliptic, and 10 to 15 centimeters long, with pointed tip and broadly rounded base. The stalks bear scattered glands. The flower is large, solitary, and fragrant; the petals are reddish, and the corona-filaments are violet. The fruit is large, freshly, edible, ellipsoid, and 15 to 20 centimeters long.

According to Burkill, the fruit is eaten either green or ripe. If green, it is boiled as vegetable. If ripe, it may be iced and eaten with sugar. The fruit wall is often candied.

Greshoff reports that the leaves produce hydrocyanic acid and are therefore poisonous. Wehmer records that the leaves contain 0.009 to 0.20 per cent of hydrocyanic acid. The fruit wall and unripe seeds contain hydrocyanic acid also.

Ricord-Madianna records the toxic properties of the roots and their pharmacological action. They act on the nervous system. Medicinally, the plant is antiscorbutic, stomachic, and refreshing when drunk as lemonade.

According to Holland and De Lanessian, the root is said to possess narcotic properties. Holland adds that it is used in Mauritius as diuretic and emetic. A De Lanessian state that in Guiana it is prescribes as a vomitive and as a taeniicide.