



PRODUCT SHEET

Annatto or Achiote (*Bixa orellana* Linneo)

FAMILY : Bixaceae (Lipstick tree Family)

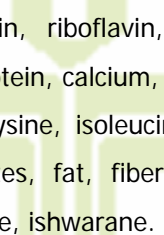
Common names: "annatto", "annato-tree", "achiote". **Spanish:** *Colombia y Peru:* "achote", "achiote", "onoto", "bijo", "bija", "potsoli", "urucu". **Guatemala:** "annato", "achote", "achiote", "chancaguarica", "achiolt", "urucu", "pumacoa". **German** "Orleans Baum" **Italian:** "zafferano". **Portuguese:** *Brazil* "bija", "urucú", "urucum".

DESCRIPTION: Small tree, 3 to 5 m, though sometimes up to 10 m. Stem cylindric, straight, with thin branches; green through purple in color. **Leaves:** simple and alternate, peciolate, elliptic, cordiform (heart-shaped) at the base, glabrate on both sides; dark green; lower surface somewhat silvery. **Flowers:** hermaphrodite, large, arranged in panicles; pale red, pink, or violet; stamens many, purple, covered with white spines. **Fruit:** an ovoid capsule, greenish to yellowish and to showy reddish; Seeds adhered to the capsule walls through the placenta; small, light, pyramidal-triangular to rounded in shape. The outer surface of the seed contains a coloring (dye) that is red-yellowish or light orange, covering the seed like a resinous pulp.

ORIGIN AND DISTRIBUTION: Native to Brazil, introduced in tropical regions almost throughout the world.

USED PARTS: Leaves, roots and fruit.

PROPERTIES: LEAVES: against prostatitis, amenorrhea, dysentery, heart diseases, haemorrhages, burns, allergies, and skin infections; astringent, antigonorrheic, antibacterial, cardiogenic, digestive, anti-inflammatory, and diuretic; against measles, fever, diabetes, angina, stomach aches, micotic infections, inflammatory processes. ROOTS: against cough, dysentery, jaundice, indigestion. SHOOT: against hepatitis, eye inflammations; digestive. FRUIT: against hemorrhoids, erythemas, dysentery, fever. SEEDS: against measles, diabetes, bronchitis, small pox, haemorrhage, burns, constipation, heart diseases. GUM from LEAVES: against leprosy, gonorrhoea, inflammations.



PHYTOCHEMICALS: PLANT: cyanidin, riboflavin, niacin, ellagic acid, salicylic acid and tomentosic acid. SEEDS: ashes, fat, protein, calcium, iron, phosphorus, nitrogen, bixin, norbixin, arginine, isobixin, histidine, leucine, lysine, isoleucine, methionine, phenylalanine, threonine, tryptofan, valine. FRUIT: carbohydrates, fat, fiber, iron, phosphorus, ascorbic acid, beta-carotenoids, bixol. LEAVES: bixaghanene, ishwarane.