

# *Courouptia guianensis* Aubl.

**Family** : Lacythidaceae

**Parts Used** : Leaf

**Vernacular Names**

English : Cannon -ball tree

Malayalam : Nagalingamaram



**Distribution:** Native of Tropical America.

**Botany:** Deciduous tree to 20 m.

• **Leaves:** Alternate, oblong lanceolate, entire, glabrous.

• **Flowers:** Large, rose-pink with strong smell in long racemes proceeding from the upper part of trunk or from main branches. Sepals 6, Petals 6, broad, yellow outside, pink inside, veined, when broken turns from white to blue on exposure. Stamens fused in to 2 unequal bundles, forming a hood over ovary.

• **Fruit:** Cannon-ball like, having an unpleasant smell when ripe.

**Properties:** Antifungal, cytotoxic, anti inflammatory, anti pyretic

**Chemical constituents:**  $\alpha$ -amirin,  $\beta$ -amirin,  $\beta$ -sitosterol, nerol, tryptanthrine, indigo, indirubin, isatin, linoleic acid, isatin

**Uses:** Leaf juice is used in promoting hair growth.

Propagation: seed

