
Passiflora miniata

Scientific Name

Passiflora miniata Vanderplank.

Synonyms

Passiflora coccinea hort.

Family

Passifloraceae

Common/English Names

Monkey-Guzzle, Passionflower, Red Granadilla, Red Passion Flower, Red Passion Vine, Red Passionflower, Scarlet Passion Flower, Scarlet Passionflower.

Vernacular Names

Bolivia: Pachio-Tutumillo;

Brazil: Maracujá-De-Flor-Vermelha, Maracujá-Poranga (**Portuguese**);

French: Grenadille À Fleurs Rouges, Liane Serpent, Passiflore Écarlate;

French Guiana: Liane Trèfle, Pomme Rose;

German: Rote Passionsblume;

Guyana: Monkey-Guzzle;

Portuguese: Maracuja Poranga, Maracujá-Tomé-Açú, Maridi-Oúra, Tomé-Açú;

Spanish: Granadilla Rojo, Pachio De Flor Roja, Passionaria Roja;

Suriname: Snekie Marcoesa (**Dutch**).

Origin/Distribution

The species is native to the Amazon region of Peru, Brazil, Columbia and Bolivia as well as Venezuela and the Guianas.

Agroecology

In its native range, it occurs in the tropical Amazonian lowlands, but in Bolivia it can be found at altitudes of about 2,000 m in the western foothills of the Andes. It occurs on non-inundated lateritic soil. Like all passion fruit, it prefers a well-drained soil enriched with organic matter, such as well-rotted manure or compost. It thrives in a warm sunny position – a north to north-westerly aspect against a masonry wall would be necessary in cooler zones. It requires deep watering at least once a week during warm weather and should be kept well-mulched.

Edible Plant Parts and Uses

The aril of ripe fruit is eaten fresh and made into juice.

Botany

A fast growing tendril-climbing vine, rufo-tomentose throughout with narrowly linear-lanceolate, shallowly serrulate stipules and with reddish-purplish stems. Leaves are oval-oblong, 6–14 cm long, 3–7 cm wide, subcordate, shallowly crenulate, medium-green, glabrous or sparingly pubescent above, ferruginous-tomentose beneath (Plates 1 and 2). Peduncles up to 8 cm long; bracts ovate and coriaceous. Flowers scarlet or red, bisexual; perianth 10 (5 sepals, 5 petals), strap-like, bright scarlet red, reflex backwards, with a central, short upright corona with three series of corona filaments, the outer series being purple in colour and the inner series being white (Plates 1 and 2). Stamens 5, reddish filaments free at apex, connate into tube around ovary, with five linear, yellowish-green dorsifixed, versatile, oblong anthers. Ovary yellowish-tomentose, stipitate on androgynophore, styles and stigmas 3, pinkish-red and stigma 3 capitate. Fruit subglobose or ovoid, about 5 cm across, orange or yellow in colour and are mottled green with edible aril covering the minutely reticulate seeds.



Plate 1 Flowers, buds and leaves of red passion flower

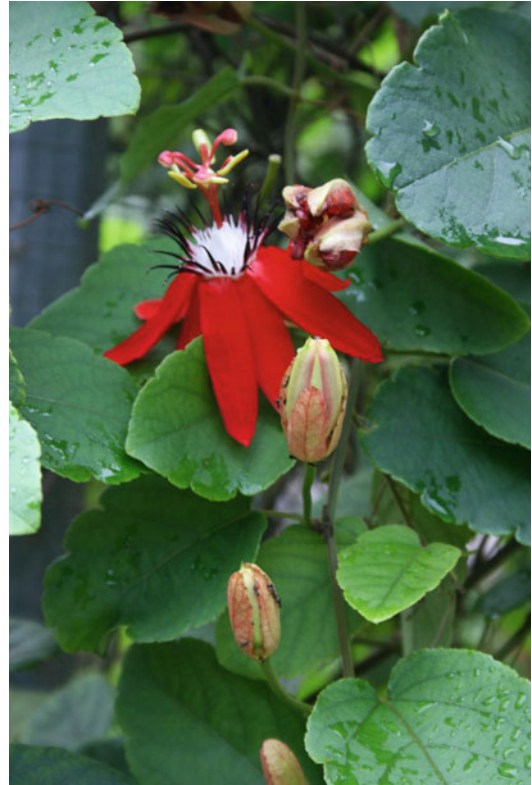


Plate 2 Close-view of flower

Nutritive/Medicinal Properties

No information on the nutrient composition of the fruit has been published.

A novel cyclopentenoid cyanogenic glycoside (1-(6-O-β-D-rhamnopyranosyl-β-D-glucopyranosyloxy)-cyclopent-2-en-1-nitrile-4-sulphate) named passicoccin was isolated from *Passiflora coccinea* (Spencer and Seigler 1985).

Other Uses

Red Passion flower is a popular ornamental for growing on a pergola, trellis, arch or fence and it is also used as a rootstock for other *Passiflora* species.

Comments

A well-documented *Passiflora* species from Bolivia, Brazil and Colombia, which has been extensively cultivated under the erroneous name *Passiflora coccinea* Aubl., is here described as *P. miniata* Vanderplank (Vanderplank 2006). The true *Passiflora coccinea* has two series of corona filaments with the outer series being white or pale pink, large floral bracts and upright pear-shaped fruits that are golden-brown in colour. The *Passiflora coccinea* of cultivation has three series of corona filaments, the outer series being purple in colour and the two inner series being white, small floral bracts and large, subspherical, pendulous and mottled fruits.

Selected References

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