

## **Comparative Seed Manual: BIXACEAE**

Christine Pang, Darla Chenin, and Amber M. VanDerwarker

(Completed, April 22, 2019)

This seed manual consists of photos and relevant information on plant species housed in the Integrative Subsistence Laboratory at the Anthropology Department, University of California, Santa Barbara. The impetus for the creation of this manual was to enable UCSB graduate students to have access to comparative materials when making in-field identifications. Most of the plant species included in the manual come from New World locales with an emphasis on Eastern North America, California, Mexico, Central America, and the South American Andes.

### Published references consulted<sup>1</sup>:

1998. Moerman, Daniel E. *Native American ethnobotany*. Vol. 879. Portland, OR: Timber press.

2009. Moerman, Daniel E. *Native American medicinal plants: an ethnobotanical dictionary*. OR: Timber Press.

2010. Moerman, Daniel E. *Native American food plants: an ethnobotanical dictionary*. OR: Timber Press.

### Species included herein:

*Bixa orellana*

---

<sup>1</sup> **Disclaimer:** Information on relevant edible and medicinal uses comes from a variety of sources, both published and internet-based; this manual does **NOT** recommend using any plants as food or medicine without first consulting a medical professional.

*Bixa orellana*



**Family:** Bixaceae

**Common Names:** Lipstick tree, Annato, Achiote

**Habitat and Growth Habit:** This plant is native to tropical regions in the Americas. Specific regions of origin include: Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil, and Bolivia. Additional regions of growth include the Caribbean, Africa, and India.

**Human Uses:** There are multiple medical usages of *Bixa orellana*. One example used in Central America uses the oil derived from the seeds to treat leprosy. Another traditional medicinal usage includes drinking a tea made from the leafy branches to treat liver issues. Some other medicinal usages consist of a digestive stimulant and a diuretic. Moreover, nonmedicinal human usages include making a dye for food coloring body, paint, and lipstick.

**Sources Consulted:**

<http://www.tradewindsfruit.com/content/lipstick-tree.htm>, accessed April 22, 2019.

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=e852>, accessed April 22, 2019.

<http://www.virtualherbarium.org/gl/bixa/bixaorellana.htm>, accessed April 22, 2019.