

Abstract:

Garcinia is in the Clusiaceae (Guttiferae) family. This genera consists of many species, which are widely used as a source of edible fruits, timber, resin, and various other natural products. Twenty-two *Garcinia* species are reported in Thailand. Some species are well known and used in many ways. *G. mangostana* is one of the best known tropical fruits and is referred to as the 'queen of tropical fruits'. Apart from the aril being consumed as a dessert fruit, the dried fruit rind, which contains tannin and xanthones, is used as a native anti-inflammatory and anti-diarrhea medicine and for treatment of dysentery. Young leaves of *G. cowa* are used as a food additive in many Thai dishes. Fruits of *G. schomburgkiana* are made into a remarkably fine preserve. Gum resin of *G. hanburyii* is used as a potent purgative and for colouring. Young shoots and the mature fruit of *G. xanthochymus* are eaten as vegetables and edible fruits. *G. dulcis* is grown as a fruit tree in southern Thailand. The tall, slender form of *G. thorelii* makes it popular as a source of poles.