

Tetrapteris methystica - Caapi-pinima

- Malpighiaceae - Tropical zones of South America, Mexico, West Indies



ANOTHER KIND OF CAAPI is prepared from Tetrapteris methystica, a forest vine also belonging to the family Malpighiaceae. One group of Maku Indians of the northwesternmost part of the Brazilian Amazon prepares a cold-water drink from the bark. There is no other plant ingredient. The drink is very bitter and has an unusual yellow hue. This may be the "second kind" of caapi mentioned by several explorers as caapi-pinima, meaning "painted caapi."

Although *T. methystica* produces effects identical with those of *Banisteriopsis caapi*, we still know nothing of its chemistry. However, it is closely related to *Banisteriopsis* and there is every probability that similar or identical alkaloids are present.

There are 90 species of *Tetrapteris* - vines and small trees found throughout the humid American tropics.