

INVESTIGATIONS ON COMMERCIAL PROCESSING OF ANNONA MURICATA L.

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Annona muricata Linn. - Soursop - (Sinh.-Katu aththa, Tamil - Sita) which is at present not processed in Sri Lanka was selected as a potential commercially exploitable fruit for investigation. It's botanical classification, general characteristics and present commercial utilisation abroad are briefly covered. The composition of the local fruit is given. Heat penetration studies of a ready-to-drink formulation, most acceptable among limited panelists in a sensory evaluation trial, and an appropriate sterilization process giving a sufficient lethality against the organism. *Clostridium pasteurianum* are given. The investigations indicate technical and commercial feasibilities of a large scale manufacture of this new, processed fruit product.