



Roucou Oil



Technical Information

REGULATORY INFORMATION

PSC REFERENCE : HROC

INCI NAME : Helianthus annuus seed oil, Caprylic/Capric triglyceride, Bixa orellana seed extract, Tocopherol.

CTFA NAME : Helianthus annuus (sunflower) seed oil, Caprylic/Capric triglyceride, Bixa orellana seed extract, Tocopherol.

	SUNFLOWER	ROUCOU	CAPRYLIC/ CAPRIC TRIGLYCERIDE	TOCOPHEROL
CAS	8001-21-6	89957-43-7	65381-09-01 73398-61-5	59-02-9
EINECS	232-273-9	289-561-2	265-724-3 277-452-2	200-412-2

CUSTOMS CODE : 1302198000

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- **Aspect, 25°C :** Liquid
- **Odour :** Characteristic
- **Colour :** Orange to red
- **Specific gravity, 20°C :** 0,910 - 0,940
- **Solubility in water :** Soluble
- **Solubility in oils :** Insoluble
- **Solubility in ethanol :** Soluble

BACTERIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- **Aerobic bacteria :** <100 cfu/g
- **Moulds - Yeasts :** <10 cfu/g

PACKAGING

- **5 / 25 kg :** PE-HD jerrycan

CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- **Antioxidant :**
Solution of natural tocopherols 0,2%

STORAGE

- Store in close container.
- Store at room temperature (20 - 25°C).
- Keep away from light and humidity.

Stability : 24 months before opening in the recommended storage conditions.

Roucou

The scarlet seeds



ROUCOU, OR URUCUM...

The Roucou Tree, also known under the name of Annatto, Achiote or Urucum, is native to South America. The Indians were using it daily for protection from sun and insects, but also and primarily to color the skin, which was by the way the origin of the name «Redskins».

It was imported to Polynesia in 1845 as a natural coloring and ornamental plant, but its presence in the Marquesas Islands is much older.

Traditionally, the Marquesas women were using the seeds, crushed and mixed with coconut oil to color the skin of the dancers during ceremonies or as a dye plant. The painter Gauguin also used this dye for the realization of his works.

Nowadays, the dyeing properties of these seeds are still exploited. Free of toxicity, it is commonly found in the food industry, for example to colour some Dutch cheese, butter or margarine.

Recent scientific studies reveal several interesting properties for the medical and cosmetic fields: sunscreen, antioxidant and photo protective, making these sunny seeds a perfect ingredient for sun care.

Pacifique Sud Products



• ROUCOU OIL



• MONOI DE TAHITI NATURAL ROUCOU

Botanical Information

BOTANICAL NAME :

Bixa orellana

FAMILY :

Bixaceae

MORPHOLOGICAL TYPE :

Tree

GEOGRAPHIC AREA :

Polynesia, South America

Roucou

The scarlet seeds

The Roucou, native to the Amazon, was introduced in Polynesia during the migrations of Amerindian populations. Appreciating medium to very humid climates, it was introduced there very easily.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Bixa orellana is a small tree that is 5 to 8 meters high.

The leaves are alternate and entire, heart-shaped.

Flowering occurs throughout the year with two abundant periods: February to April and October to November. The flowers are white or pink, grouped in pyramidal clusters, and consisting of 5 free petals and numerous stamens.

The fruits are very characteristic and abundant. They are oval capsules with 2 valves, about 4cm long, covered with numerous soft bright red spines containing about fifty seeds covered with a vermilion coat which is the source of their dyeing power.



CULTIVATION

Cultivation is made by sowing.

The seeds germinate easily within a fortnight.

Fruiting is abundant, a small plant can produce up to 270kg of seeds.



CHEMICAL COMPOSITION

The analysis indicates that the seeds contain :

- 40 to 45% cellulose,
- 3,5 to 5,5% saccharose,
- 0,3 to 0,9% essential oil,
- 3% of fixed oil,
- 4,5 to 5,5% pigment,
- 13 to 16% protein,
- the alpha-and beta-carotenoids...



The oil extracted from the seeds is the main source of carotenoid pigments such as bixin and norbixin.

Bixin, extracted and used as food coloring, is now recognized as a protective agent against ultraviolet rays, and as an antioxidant.

In addition to bixin and norbixin, Roucou also contains various other compounds such as bixaghanene, bixeine, bixol, crocetin, ellagic acid, ishwarane, isobixine, phenylalanine, salicylic acid, threonine, acid tomentosa and tryptophan.

Roucou

The scarlet seeds

USES

The indigenous tribes have been traditionally using the seeds in their paintings for dances and rituals, as fabric dyeing, but also as medicine for centuries for many applications.

They used to make a tea, used as an aphrodisiac or as an astringent and anti-inflammatory product to treat skin problems, fevers, dysentery and hepatitis. Traditional healers were also using Roucou as antivenin in case of snake bites. The seeds were known for their expectorant action.

Today, a colourful paste is produced with the seeds, which is used in food as a coloring for soups, cheeses... It often replaces saffron, which is very expensive.

This paste is also used as a dye for natural fabrics and wool.

Many recent studies on Roucou have validated the traditional applications and allowed discover new ones, such as hypotensive, muscle relaxant, and antibacterial.

It is therefore frequently found in cosmetics, for its numerous properties:

- Antioxidant (fight free radicals because of its richness in carotenoids)
- Protector (sunburn caused by UV rays)
- Antibacterial and antiseptic
- Emollient
- Astringent and anti-acne

The Roucou offers all its virtues, while giving creams, lotions and shampoos a rich and light color.