

**Title** Postharvest characterization of Mangaba (*Hancornia speciosa* Gomes) from natural populations in Sergipe, Brazil

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#### **Abstract**

Mangaba fruit (*Hancornia speciosa* Gomes) are greatly appreciated in Brazil where they are consumed fresh or after processing. The purpose of this study was to characterize fruit from natural populations in Sergipe State, Brazil. Fruit from 100 individual trees at five natural areas (Aracaju, Barrodos Coqueiros, Estancia, Pirambu Itaporanga d'Ajuda) were evaluated. Fruit was harvested at a uniform maturity stage and physical and chemical characteristics were quantified. The analyses (total weight, weight of pods, seeds, number of seeds, yield, diameter; soluble solids, total acidity and vitamin C) occurred after harvest. These natural populations of mangaba vary in attributes of quality, with great potential for improvement and inclusion in cropping systems. The mangaba fruit contained high ascorbic acid content and thus it could be considered a fruit rich in vitamin C.