

servative'' therapy. (However, anaphylactic shock was reported in *circa* 1% of 1400 experimental patients, with fatalities in 2.)¹¹⁸

The juice is used for warts, cancers, tumors, corns, and indurations of the skin. Sinapisms prepared from the root are also said to help tumors of the uterus.³ Green fruit said to be ecbohic. Vermifugal seeds said to quench thirst. Leaves poulticed onto nervous pains and elephantoid growths. Roots said to cure piles and yaws.¹ In Asia, the latex is smeared on the mouth of the uterus as ecbohic. The root infusion is used for syphilis in Africa. Leaf smoked for asthma relief in various remote areas.³ Philipinos use the root decoction for piles and yaws.¹⁶ Javanese believe that eating papaya prevents rheumatism. Dietary papaya does reduce urine acidity in humans. Flowers have been used for jaundice.³ Experimentally, papaya is hypoglycemic.¹¹ Inner bark used for sore teeth. Latex used in psoriasis, ringworm, and prescribed for the removal of cancerous growths in Cuba. Japanese use the latex for splenomegaly and stomach catarrh.¹⁶ Externally, the latex is used for burns, corns, eczema, freckles, skin blemishes, and warts.¹⁶ Reported to be abortifacient, amebicidal, anodyne, antibiotic, antiphlogistic, bactericide, cardiotoxic, carminative cholagogue, decoagulant, digestive, discutient, diuretic, ecbohic, emmenagogue, expectorant, fungicide, insecticide, laxative, pectoral, pediculicide, proteolytic, stomachic, supplicative, tonic, and vermifuge, papaya is a folk remedy for asthma, cancer, catarrh, constipation, corns, diarrhea, diphtheria, dysentery, dyspepsia, elephantiasis, enteritis, epithelioma, fever, flu, freckles, headache, hemoptysis, hypertension, itch, leucoderma, fever, madness, oliguria, piles, psoriasis, rheumatism, ringworm, splenomegaly, splenosis, toothache, tuberculosis, tumors, ulcers, venereal disease, warts, worms, wounds, and yaws.^{16,32,33}

Per 100 g, the green fruit is reported to contain 26 calories, 92.1 g H₂O, 1.0 g protein, 0.1 g fat, 6.2 g total carbohydrate, 0.9 g fiber, 0.6 g ash, 38 mg Ca, 20 mg P, 0.3 mg Fe, 7 mg Na, 215 mg K, 15 µg β-carotene equivalent, 0.02 mg thiamine, 0.03 mg riboflavin, 0.3 mg niacin, and 40 mg ascorbic acid. Per 100 g, the ripe fruit is reported to contain 45 calories, 87.1 g H₂O, 0.5 g protein, 0.1 g fat, 11.8 g total carbohydrate, 0.5 g fiber, 0.5 g ash, 24 mg Ca, 22 mg P, 0.7 mg Fe, 4 mg Na, 221 mg K, 710 µg β-carotene equivalent, 0.03 mg thiamine, 0.05 mg riboflavin, 0.4 mg niacin, and 73 mg ascorbic acid. Per 100 g, the leaves are reported to contain 74 calories, 77.5 g H₂O, 7.0 g protein, 2.0 g fat, 11.3 g total carbohydrate, 1.8 g fiber, 2.2 g ash, 344 mg Ca, 142 mg P, 0.8 mg Fe, 16 mg Na, 652 mg K, 11.565 µg β-carotene equivalent, 0.09 mg thiamine, 0.48 mg riboflavin, 2.1 mg niacin, and 140 mg ascorbic acid.²¹ Vitamin E is reported at 36 mg/100 g. Fresh latex contains 75% water, 4.5% caoutchouc-like substances, 7% pectinous matter and salts, 0.44% malic acid, 5.3% papain, 2.4% fat, and 2.9% resin.¹ Per 100 g, the seeds are reported to contain 24.3 g protein, 25.3 g fatty oil, 15.5 g total carbohydrate, 17.0 g crude fiber, and 8.8 g ash. The seeds yield 660 to 760 mg BITC (bactericidal aglycone of glucotropaeolin benzyl isothiocyanate), a glycoside sinigrin and enzyme myrosin, and carposamine.¹¹⁹

Toxicity — Externally, the latex is irritant, dermatogenic, and vesicant. Internally, it causes severe gastritis. Some people are allergic to the pollen, the fruit, and the latex. Papain can induce asthma and rhinitis. Carpaine can cause paralysis, numbing of the nerve centers, and cardiac depression¹⁶ (GRAS § 182.1585).²⁹ Analysis of dried papaya leaves at the University of Florida showed only 0.5 to 0.6% tannin and no saponin.⁵⁰ Fresh leaves contain the proteolytic enzyme papain which tenderizes meat (meat so tenderized is laxative). Fresh leaves contain 0.286% ascorbic acid, 0.036% vitamin E, and up to 0.4% the bitter glycoside carpaine (C₂₈H₅₀N₂O₄), a CNS-depressant and heart depressant.⁵⁰ Supporting my not-too-exciting hypothesis that if one studies any plant species enough, he will find something to raise the blood pressure, something to lower it, etc., etc., is an item recounted by Perry.¹⁶ Acetone-dried powdered latex contains one factor which accelerates blood clotting, another which prevents it.¹⁶ Can the homeostatic human body selectively take the one it needs?