

## Parrot's Beak, Hedgehog

• Hindi: बबबर Badhara • Bengali: বববব Badhara • Assamese: Korobi

Botanical name: *Gmelina philippensis* Family: Verbenaceae (Verbena family)

Synonyms: *Gmelina hystrix*

Parrot's Beak is an extraordinary round and spiny shrub, or a small tree, 3-8 m tall, with pendant branches. Rhomboid-elliptic leaves are 5-7.5 cm long, 3-4 cm broad, entire or slightly lobed, smooth. Exotic flowers comprised of yellow blossoms which emerge from a pendant structure of overlapping bracts. The flower resembles parrot's beak. The fruit is fleshy, smooth, yellow, pear-shaped, and about 2 centimeters long. Parrot's Beak is a native of Philippine islands, India and S.E. Asia.

Medicinal uses: In the Philippines it is said that the juice of the fruit is externally applied to portions of the feet affected by "alipuña," a kind of eczema. The juice of the fruit is also considered anti "limatik," (limatik is a species of leech of the genus *Haemadipsa*).

Identification credit: Shaista Ahmad, Jayashree Roy, Archana Bora, Pallavi Barua