

Amphicarpaea bracteata

[Synonyms : *Amphicarpa bracteata*, *Amphicarpa monoica*, *Amphicarpa pitcheri*, *Amphicarpaea bracteata* var. *comosa*, *Amphicarpaea bracteata* var. *pitcheri*, *Amphicarpaea chamaecaulis*, *Amphicarpaea ciliata*, *Amphicarpaea comosa*, *Amphicarpaea cuspidata*, *Amphicarpaea deltifolia*, *Amphicarpaea elliottii*, *Amphicarpaea heterophylla*, *Amphicarpaea monoica*, *Amphicarpaea monoica* var. *comosa*, *Amphicarpaea pitcheri*, *Amphicarpaea sarmentosa*, *Amphicarpaea villosa*, *Falcata bracteata*, *Falcata caroliniana*, *Falcata comosa*, *Falcata pitcheri*, *Glycine bracteata*, *Glycine comosa*, *Glycine monoica*, *Glycine sarmentosa*, *Lobomon acutifolium*, *Lobomon montanum*, *Lobomon obtusifolium*, *Lobomon sarmentosum*, *Savia volubilis*, *Tetrodea comosa*, *Tetrodea monoica*]

HOG PEANUT is a twining annual vine. Native to eastern and southern North America and India it has small white or pale purple flowers.

It is also known as American hogpeanut, *Ati-kuraru* (Pawnee North American Indian), Goober, Ground bean, Ground peanut, *Hibthiabe* (Omaha and Ponca North American Indian), Hogbrake peanut, Hog-pea, *Honik-boije* (Winnebago North American Indian), *Maka tominichia* (Dakota North American Indian), Pea vine, Wild bean vine, and Wild peanut.

Bracteata means ‘having conspicuous leaf-like or petal-like bracts’.

While the name Hog peanut refers to hogs’ partiality for the underground nuts they grub up whenever possible.

Local North American Indian tribes used to eat the pleasant-tasting underground fruit (nuts).

Those below the ground are edible if they are boiled. Dakota women are believed to have appreciated their nutritional value (as did those in the Ponca, Omaha, Pawnee and Winnebago tribes). They found the hordes already squirrelled away by some of the little animals and replaced them with the same amount of corn (*Zea*) or other suitable food. This way it was said that the tribeswomen felt they were not stealing the precious cache. (Similarly the Meswaki took the piles of nuts collected by mice.) The nuts were ground by the Cherokee for bread flour – and they also (like some of the Chippewa Indians) cooked them like beans as a vegetable. The roots (that the Omaha stored for food in Winter) were also eaten by both the Chippewa and Cherokee tribes.

Several Indian tribes found medicinal attributes in hog peanut. Some of the Dakota tribe applied a leaf poultice to swellings, and a decoction of the plant was prescribed by the Iroquois Indians to treat some stomach disorders. For the Chippewa tribe and the Cherokee the root was the important part and the former used it in remedies for snake bites and diarrhoea.

Birds enjoy the seeds both above and below ground, and hogs root up the fruit from just underneath the earth.