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Berberis aristata

[Synonyms : *Berberis chitria*, *Berberis floribunda*, *Berberis tinctoria*]

NEPAL BARBERRY is a deciduous shrub. Native to India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, it has bright yellow (often reddish outside) flowers.

It is also known as Barberry, Berberis, Darlahad, *Dar hald* (Hindi), *Darhaldi* (Bengali), *Daruhald* (Marathi), *Daru haridra* (Sanskrit), Indian barberry, *Kashmal* (Punjabi), *Mara darisina* (Malayalam), *Maramanjil* (Tamil), Ophthalmic barberry, *Rasaut* (Urdu), and *Rasvat* (Kashmiri).

The flowers are pollinated by bees.

Aristata means 'bearded, or with a stiff bristle-like awn with a long tapering tip' with reference usually to the leaf tip.

Its roots and stem yield a yellow dye which has been used in tanning leather.

The dried berries are eaten locally like raisins (*Vitis vinifera*).

Medicinally, Nepal barberry is a common remedy used by Hindus, especially for treating fever (including malaria) using a decoction of root bark. An extract from the root bark and the wood has also been used to treat skin diseases, jaundice, period problems and eye infections.