

Clausena lansium

[Synonyms : *Aulacia punctata*, *Clausena punctata*, *Clausena wambi*, *Clausena wampi*, *Clausena wampo*, *Cookia punctata*, *Cookia wampi* , *Quinaria lansium*, *Sonneratia punctata*]

WAMPI (English, German, Malay) is an evergreen shrub or tree. Native to south-eastern Asia (particularly southern China and northern Vietnam) it has small conspicuously yellow-tipped, fragrant greenish-white flowers.

It is also known as Chinese wampee, *Galumpi* (Filipino/Tagalog), *Hông bì* (Vietnamese), *Huang-p'i-kuo* (Chinese), *Rata-karapincha* (Singhalese), *Som-ma-fai* (Thai), *Uampi* (Filipino/Tagalog), Wampee (English, Malay), and *Wong pay* (Chinese).

Wampi is cultivated particularly in southern China and northern Vietnam for the small lime-like (*Citrus aurantiifolia*), aromatic yellowish-white or yellowish-green fruit – and there and elsewhere (mainly Queensland in Australia, Hawaii and Florida in the United States) it has been grown as an ornamental plant. Although unidentified there at the time, it was first introduced to Florida in 1908. (Apparently it has been grown successfully in the less conducive northern country of England in greenhouses.)

The peeled fruit are eaten locally and are used to make fruit drinks, pies and jam, and the yellowish-white pulp also provides a flavouring for other preserves. The fruit are used as a flavouring for meat curries too and in some parts of south-eastern Asia they are fermented for a sparkling wine.

In some parts of Asia the leaves have provided a hairwash for treating dandruff and preserving hair colour.

Medicinally, dried root and the unripe, sun-dried fruit are used in Chinese (and Vietnamese) medicine to ease bronchitis. It is believed that the fruit can enhance digestion and they are also used for expelling worms.