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Echinocystis lobata

[Synonyms : *Echinocystis echinata*, *Micrampelis lobata*, *Sicyos lobata*]

WILD BALSAM APPLE is an annual, climbing vine. Native to eastern North America it has small, greenish-white flowers.

It is also known as Balsam apple, Bur cucumber, California cucumber, Climbing wild cucumber, *Concombre grim pant* (French-Canadian), *Concombre sauvage* (French-Canadian), Creeping Jenny, *Igelkottsgurka* (Swedish), Mock apple, Mock cucumber, Mock orange, Prickly cucumber, *Štětinec laločnatý* (Czech), *Taggreva* (Swedish), *Wahnahnahecha* (Dakota North American Indian), *Watagtha* (Omaha and Ponca North American Indian), Wild cucumber, and Wild mock cucumber.

Mature fruit burst to expel seeds several feet.

Lobata is derived from Latin *lobi*- (lobe) component.

The Menominee, Meskwaki and other North American Indian tribes all used the root in love potions, and for preparing a bitter tonic drink.

Some North American Indian tribes used the seeds as beads.

Medicinally, the tribes also used the root in a poultice to treat headaches – and the Cherokee prescribed it for treating fever, rheumatism and kidney disorders.