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*Hedychium coronarium*

[Synonyms : *Hedychium coronarium* var. *baimao*]

**BUTTERFLY LILY** is a perennial. Native to tropical south-eastern Asia (especially India), it has orchid-like, delicately fragrant, yellow- or cream-tinged, white flowers with long, protruding filaments.

It is also known as Butterfly ginger, Cinnamon-jasmine, Common ginger lily, *Elamal* (Singhalese), Fragrant garland, *Gandasoli* (Sundanese), *Gandasuli* (Javanese, Malay), Garland flower, Garland lily, Ginger lily, High lili, Indian garland flower, *Mariposa* (Spanish), Sweet-scented garland flower, Sweetly-scented white ginger, *Thahern* (Thai), White garland lily, White ginger, White ginger blossom, and White ginger lily.

The flowers are especially fragrant in the evening.

*Coronarium* is derived from Latin *corona* (crown) meaning ‘of garlands or an ingredient in garlands, or crowned’.

In India and elsewhere the stems have been used to make paper.

Some authorities believe that it could have been introduced to the Hawaiian Islands by Chinese settlers. Hawaiians string the flowers together and garland visitors with them in welcome.

Medicinally, the plant has been used locally for a gargle.