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Jasminum humile

[Synonyms : *Jasminum bignoniaceum*, *Jasminum triumphans*]

ITALIAN JASMINE is a semi-evergreen shrub. Native to the Himalayas it has small, bright yellow flowers.

It is also known as *Chamba* (Punjabi), *Hemapushpika* (Sanskrit and Telugu), Himalayan jasmine, Italian yellow-flowered jasmine, Italian yellow jasmine, *Pita* (Malayalam), *Pitmalti* (Hindi), *Semalligai* (Tamil), *Svarnajui* (Bengali), Yellow-flowered jasmine, Yellow jasmine, and *Zard chambeli* (Indian).

Humile is derived from Latin *humus* (on the ground, low) meaning 'low-growing or lower growing than most of its kind'.

Its common name Italian jasmine (a misnomer) hides the belief that the plant is Himalayan.

This name arose as specimens of it first came to Britain annually with orange trees (*Citrus*) imported from the Mediterranean.

From records Italian jasmine was being cultivated in England before 1656 by John Tradescant the Younger (1608-1662).

Medicinally, the root has been used in India to treat ringworm.