

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Nicandra physalodes

[Synonyms : *Atropa physalodes*, *Boberella nicandra*, *Nicandra minor*, *Nicandra physaloides*, *Pentagonia physalodes*, *Physalis daturaefolia*, *Physalis peruviana*, *Physalis physalodes*, *Physalodes peruviana*, *Physalodes physalodes*, *Physalodes physaloides*]

APPLE OF PERU is an annual. Native to Peru it has small nodding, white-centred, pale blue to bluish-purple flowers.

It is also known as Apple of Sodom, *Ballongblomma* (Swedish), *Basterappeliefie* (Afrikaans), *Blaue Giftbeere* (German), *Blaue Lampionblume* (German), *Ebony*, *Giftbeere* (German), *Kantbæger* (Danish), *Lilik mochyňovitý* (Czech), *Peruanische Erdkirsche* (German), *Perunkoiso* (Finnish), *Peruvian blueball*, *Rakkokoiso* (Finnish), *Shoo-fly*, *Shoo-fly away* and *Shoo-fly plant*.

The flowers bloom successively and each opens for only a few hours.

Warning – apart from the ripe fruit authorities state that the whole plant is poisonous.

Physalodes is derived from the genus name *Physalis* meaning ‘like plants in that genus’ with reference to the encased fruit.

Locally apple of Peru was used both as a fly poison and a fly deterrent. In the latter capacity it was once a familiar sight cultivated around barns in some places.

The annual is cultivated as an ornamental plant – and the stems of the greenish-yellow to orange berries (each surrounded by its net-veined papery green lantern) have been included in dried flower arrangements.

Medicinally, the plant has been used locally to treat coughs and fluid retention. Tibetan medicine has employed the seeds for treating contagious illnesses, some intestinal pain, impotence and toothache.