

Passiflora foetida

[Synonyms : *Dysosmia foetida*, *Dysosmia hircina*, *Dysosmia polyadena*, *Granadilla foetida*, *Passiflora baraquiniana*, *Passiflora foetida* var. *galapagensis*, *Passiflora foetida* var. *gossypifolia*, *Passiflora foetida* var. *hastata*, *Passiflora foetida* var. *hirsuta*, *Passiflora foetida* var. *hirsutissima*, *Passiflora foetida* var. *hispida*, *Passiflora foetida* var. *isthmia*, *Passiflora foetida* var. *lanuginosa*, *Passiflora foetida* var. *maxonii*, *Passiflora foetida* var. *mayarum*, *Passiflora foetida* var. *salvadorensis*, *Passiflora foetida* var. *subpalmata*, *Passiflora gossypifolia*, *Passiflora hibiscifolia* var. *velutina*, *Passiflora hirsuta*, *Passiflora hispida*, *Passiflora polyadena*, *Passiflora variegata*, *Passiflora vesicaria*, *Tripsilina foetida*]

WILD WATERMELON is a climbing vine. Native to tropical America (including the Galapagos Islands) it has with pale pink or green and white flowers.

It is also known as Baby honeysuckle, *Bedoca* (Ecuadorean-Galapagos Islands), *Cheplukan blungsun* (Javanese), *Dulce* (Northern Mariana Island), Fetid passionflower, Fitweed, *Kacheprek* (Sundanese), *Kinahulo' atdao* (Northern Mariana Island), *Kratok rok* (Thai), *Lani wai* (Hawaiian), *Loliloli ni kalavo* (Fijian), Love-in-a-mist, *Marie Gouja* (West Indian), *Mukkopeera* (Sanskrit), *Pasio vao* (Samoan), *Passiflore* (French), Passion flower, *Pohapoha* (Hawaiian), Pop bush, Popping jay, *Qarandila* (Fijian), Running pop, *Siruppunaikkali* (Tamil), *Sou* (Fijian), Stinking passionflower, Stinking passion fruit, *Tellajumiki* (Telugu), *Timun padang* (Malay), *Vaine 'initia* (Tongan), Wild passion fruit, and Wild water lemon.

Warning – unripe fruit are believed to be poisonous. In some regions it is suspected that the plant may have poisoned livestock that, like their wild counterparts, are usually deterred by the smell.

Foetida is Latin (stinking) meaning ‘bad-smelling, fetid or stinking’.

The orange-yellow berries are popular with birds and children.

Wild watermelon is believed to have been introduced to Europe in 1731.

Medicinally, a tea made with the dried leaves has been taken for treating sore throats, and also for kidney disorders, female ailments, coughs and hysteria. A decoction of the leaves has been used to treat asthma too. Externally the leaves have been applied in poultices for skin inflammation.