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Pilocarpus microphyllus

JABORANDI is an evergreen shrub. Native to tropical America (particularly Brazil) it has small reddish-purple flowers.

It is also known as Maranhã jaborandi, and *Maranhao-jaborandi* (Swedish).

Warning – jaborandi is poisonous. It can cause nausea, vomiting, salivation and abnormal heartbeat.

Microphyllus is derived from Greek *micro-* (small) and *phyllo-* (leaf) components.

First introduced to Europe in 1847 jaborandi has caused some debate about its botanical source. It has been included as an ingredient in hair tonics as it is supposed to be able to stimulate hair growth – and is still used commercially for this today.

Medicinally, the plant has been used to treat many conditions including catarrh, jaundice, fluid retention and some forms of deafness, as well as various skin diseases. Today it is found primarily in commercial ophthalmic preparations.