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*Piper angustifolia*

[Synonyms : *Artanthe elongata*, *Piper elongatum*, *Piper granulosum*, *Stephensia elongata*]

**MATICO** is a shrub. Native to Peru it has tiny yellow flowers.

It is also known as Matica, Pepper, Soldier's herb, and True matico.

*Angustifolia* is derived from Latin *angusti-* (narrow) and *-folia* (leaved) components.

Matico is believed to be the name of the Spanish soldier who when wounded discovered the healing properties of these leaves.

Medicinally, the leaves are used locally to heal slight wounds and the bites of leeches.

European herbalists have long used them to treat haemorrhaging, piles and abnormal vaginal discharges.