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*Solandra maxima*

[Synonyms : *Datura maxima*, *Solandra grandiflora*, *Solandra guttata*, *Solandra hartwegii*, *Solandra nitida*, *Solandra selerae*]

**CHALICE VINE** is an evergreen climbing shrub. Native to Mexico and the West Indies it has greenish-white buds that open to fragrant light cream maturing to orange-apricot flowers with brownish-purple ridges to throat and inner bar markings.

It is also known as Capa de oro, Cup of gold, Gold cup, Golden chalice, Golden-chalice vine, Golden cup, Hawaiian lily, Milk cup, *Mendieta* (Spanish), and Trumpet flower.

The flowers are particularly fragrant at night and have a scent similar to that of coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) or ripe apricots (*Prunus armeniaca*). They last for three or four days (unless the flower touches or contains water) during which time their colour deepens.

Warning – the whole plant (except the ripe fruit) is poisonous (even from chewing fragments of the flowers or prolonged inhalation of the flower's fragrance). It can cause delirium, fever, hallucinations, headaches, dry throat, weakness, circulatory and respiratory failure and death.

*Maxima* is derived from Latin *magnus* (great, large) meaning 'largest'.

The plant was one of the sources of hallucinogenic substances used in sacred rituals in Mexico.