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*Solanum hermannii*

[Synonyms : *Solanum linnaeanum*, *Solanum sodomeum*, *Solanum sodomeum* var. *hermannii*]

**POPOLO** is a shrub. Found on the shores of the Dead Sea in the Middle East it has small convolvulus-like, spiny, pale violet flowers.

It is also known as Apple of Sodom, Brown nightshade, Dead Sea apple, *Lilek ostnatý* (Czech), *Lilek sodomský* (Czech), *Luľok* (Slovak), *Pomo di Sodoma* (Italian), *Sodomsapfel* (German), *Tomate de sodoma* (Portuguese), *Tomatillos del diablo* (Spanish), and Yellow popola.

Warning – the fruit are poisonous.

*Hermannii* commemorates a German-born Dutch botanist and plant collector, Paul Hermann (1646-1695), who was professor of botany at Leiden from 1679. While employed as medical officer by the Dutch East India Company from 1672 to 1677 he collected plant (and a few insect) specimens predominantly from the Columbo region of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) but also from South Africa. His collection of dried plants and drawings, used by several botanists including the Swedish, Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778), are held at various places in Europe including the Natural History Museum in London. His works, most of which were published after his death, include *Paradisus batavus* and his Ceylonese collection is shown and acknowledged in *Flora Zeylanica* and *Species Plantarum* published by Carolus Linnaeus.

Insects lay their eggs in the young fruit with the result that the mature fruit can be full of dust.