

Botanic Name: *Globba bulbifera* Roxb. -- Asiat. Res. xi. (1810) 358. (IK). (syn. *Globba marantina*)

Common Name: Maranti's Swan Flower

Family; Zingiberaceae

Habitat: Terrestrial.

Distribution: Kerala and Tamil Nadu, becoming rare in West Bengal, India; China, Indian subcontinent, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines to New Guinea and northern Australia

Description: An erect rhizome forming herbs, with slender stem up to 50 cm tall, usually solitary. Leaves are bifarious, oblong-lance shaped, pointed at tip, sessile, glabrous. Inflorescence type is a spike, up to 10 cm long, often with bulbils towards the base. Bracteate; bracts are 1-2 cm long, broadly ovate, greenish; bracteolate with bracteoles 1 cm long, ovate. Flowers are single formed in each bract, 1.4 cm long, tube slender, petals short, yellow; lip as long as the flower, deeply 2-lobed, yellow, calyx funnel shaped, 3-lobed.; stamen 1, anthers broadly winged; lateral staminodes oblong; ovary 1-celled; ovules many on 3-parietal placentas; style 1, slender; stigma top-shaped. Fruit capsule type oblong, glabrous, coarsely rugose

Phytochemicals: Tubers are rich in amino acids, cardiac glycosides, and fatty acids; metabolites like cholesterol, steroids, alkaloids, cardiac glycosides, tannins, terpenoids, phlobatinins, fatty acids and phenols.

Medicinal/Economic uses: Antimicrobial and antioxidant; presence of cardiac glycosides is used in the Indian medicinal system. The plant can be seen as potential source of useful drugs. The small bulbils used as a flavouring somewhat spicy, can be eaten fresh or dried; also used in the same way as cardamom because of their pleasant taste. The small bulbils are used to stimulate the appetite. Traditionally, the plant part/s are used in various ailments such as mouth ulcer, conjunctivitis, post natal care, eye abrasions, asthma, analgesic, heart pain, and stomach upset in different tropical countries.