

**Botanic name :** *Physalis minima* L. -- Sp. Pl. 1: 183. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

**Common name :** Ground Cherry, Native gooseberry, 'bon-tepari' (Bengali)

**Family :** Solanaceae

**Habitat :** Terrestrial

**Distribution :** Pantropical

**Description :** An annual laxly branched herb; stems viscid-pubescent, hollow; leaves ovate to ovate-oblong, acute or shortly acuminate at apex, shortly toothed at margins, cuneate at base, pubescent; flowers yellowish, solitary, pedicellate; calyx green, emerging up to 2.5 cm in fruit, persistent; corolla pale yellow; fruit berry- can be dispersed by wind by called balloon mechanism. The space between the fruit and the covering calyx works as air bladder at early stages.

**Phytochemicals:** Alkaloids, flavonoids, glycosides, phenols, saponins, steroids, tannins and terpenoids

**Medicinal/Economic uses :** The plant is antipyretic, anticancer, febrifuge and vermifuge (roots), bitter in taste, appetizing, diuretic, laxative, tonic; useful in inflammations, enlargement of the spleen and abdominal troubles. The fruit is considered to be a tonic, diuretic and purgative (Punjab, India). The *mundas* (a tribe) of Chhota Nagpur plateau, India mix the juice of the leaves with water and mustard oil and use it as a remedy against earache. Used as a remedy for headache and itches (pounded leaves), earache (leaf juice, mixed with mustard oil and water), hypertension and diabetes (root decoction), and pain (as a poultice). As a good source of vitamin C, the raw fruit can is used directly and as a cooked vegetable.