

Botanic name : *Barleria cristata* L. --- Sp. Pl. 2: 636. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

Common name : Philippineiolet

Family : Acanthaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to SE Asia; distributed in India,

Description : Erect shrub with glabrous, swollen nodes, young stem which is grey, slightly four angled, usually with 3-4 divaricate spines at axil of leaf; leaves deep green at upper but pale green at lower surface; leaves oval-ellipsoid shaped; variable in size, simple, acuminate at apex, entire at margin, acute at apex, uncostate reticulate venation, glabrous above, glabrous or pubescent/ spiny beneath; flowers tubular yellow–orange, with protruding stamens, sessile, often solitary axillary, becoming spicate above; bracts foliaceous, oblong or lanceolate, bristle-tipped; bracteoles 1.3 cm long, narrowly linear, subulate (almost spinous), bristle-tipped; stamens 2 fertile + 2 staminodes; fertile filament exerted beyond the corona tube, those of the staminode very short. Ovary superior of two fused carpels; fruits capsule-ellipsoid

Phytochemicals: β -Sitosterol, Potassium, Barlerin, Scutellareing-g-rhamnosyl glucoside, Irioids, Barlerin and Acetyl barlerin; neutral and acid resins

Medicinal/Economic uses : Anti-inflammatory (leaves); the bitter juice of the leaves or roots is antibacterial, diaphoretic and expectorant. Used in the treatment of serious catarrhal infections, an infusion of the roots and leaves is applied to boils and sores to reduce swellings, seeds are used as an antidote for snake bites;