

## Flowering Trees



*Cochlospermum religiosum* (L.) Alston Syn. *C. gossypium* DC (English: yellow-flowered cotton tree; Hindi Gabdi, Galgal) of Cochlospermaceae is a small deciduous tree with smooth ash-coloured fibrous, deeply furrowed bark containing gum and lobed leaves. Flowers (in the foreground) which appear after leaf fall are large, golden yellow in terminal branched inflorescences. Fruit is large, and pear-shaped. Seeds are numerous and are covered with woolly hairs. Dried leaves and flowers are used as stimulant. The gum known as 'Katira gum' is sweet, thermogenic, anodyne and sedative and is useful in cough, diarrhoea, dysentery, pharyngitis, gonorrhoea, syphilis and trachoma.