

Corydalis govaniana

No Image

Family: Papaveraceae

Local/common names:
Corydalis, Bhutjata, Bhutbishi,
Revandchini (Hindi), Artso
(Lahaul), Lichu (Spiti)

Trade name: Bhutkes

Profile:

Corydalis govaniiana or bhutkeshi is a perennial herb belonging to the family Papaveraceae. The species has several medicinal uses and is used in Tibetan medicine and has a sweet and bitter taste with a cooling potency.

Habitat and ecology: The plant is an erect, tufted perennial and common to the alpine and sub-alpine regions. It is found distributed in the Himalayas from Pakistan to Kashmir and Kumaon in India up to the east Nepal at an altitudinal range of 2400-3700 m. the plant requires well-drained moist soil.

Morphology: The plant is a soft slender herb with a dark brown, deep, stout rootstock crowned with withered leaf sheaths. The radical leaves are long stalked, 2-pinnate, cut to the base and as long as stem. The leaflets are wedge shaped and deeply lobed. The flowers are yellow, crowded, 2.5 cm long and arise from 5-10 cm long, individual axes.

Distinguishing features: Characteristic wedge shaped and deeply lobed leaves easily distinguish the plant.

Life cycle: Flowering occurs in June-August while fruiting occurs in September-October.

Uses: The plant has several medicinal uses. The root has alterative, anti-periodic, appetizer, diuretic and tonic properties. It is used in the treatment of syphilis and cutaneous infections. The plant is also used as an antidote, anti-inflammatory, febrifuge and vermifuge. It is helpful in the treatment of disorders from poisoning, swelling of the limbs and stomach/intestinal pain due to worm infestation. It has been reported that *Corydalis* species are potentially toxic in moderate doses.

Market rate: Data not available