

Delphinium denudatum

No Image

Family: Ranunculaceae

Local/common names:
Delphinium, Nirvisi (Hindi),
Nirvisha (Sans.)

Trade name: Nirvisi, Judwar

Profile:

Delphinium denudatum is a member of the Ranunculaceae family. It grows as a weed in grasslands, in fields and in crop fields. All parts of the plant are known to be toxic if not taken in the correct dose.

Habitat and ecology: The plant is endemic to the eastern Himalayas and is common in the western and central Himalayas from Kashmir to Kumaon and the Tibetan valley at an elevation of 2440-3660 m. The plant is commonly found in dry scrubby slopes or grassy slopes and forest clearings. It requires open sunny areas for its growth.

Morphology: It is an annual drooping herb of about 60-90 cm, bearing many branches. The leaves are mostly radical and few are cauline at the uppermost position. The flowers are pale blue, few in number and borne in a branched raceme. The pedicels are bi-bracteolate and sepals are yellow with blue margins. The anterior petals are deeply bifid and hairy on both the surfaces. The follicles are three in number, inflated, sparsely hairy or glabrous.

Distinguishing features: It is about 1 m high with pale blue bracteate flowers arranged in a raceme.

Life cycle: Flowering occurs in the months of July-August.

Uses: The roots and seeds are used for medicinal purpose. The roots are alterative, bitter, stimulant and tonic. The plant is used to treat toothaches, rheumatism, impotency, syphilis and dyscrasia. It acts as an antidote against many poisons and heals ulcers. It is also used as remedy in cardiac and cerebral diseases with combination of other herbal stimulants. The species is sometimes used as the substitute for *Aconitum heterophyllum*.

Market rate: Data not available