

Thalictrum foliolosum

No Image

Family: Ranunculaceae

Local/common names:

Mamira, Pilijari, Chaitra,
Sarphar, Bishkaral, Mirchadi,
Barmoth Mamiri (Himachal
Pradesh)

Trade name: Pilijari

Profile:

Thalictrum foliolosum belongs to the buttercup family. It is valued for its medicinal properties and is widely used in Tibetan and Unani systems of medicine.

Habitat and ecology: This herb generally occurs in the inner valleys the temperate Himalayas and west Tibet between 1800-3500 m. In Himachal Pradesh, it is commonly found in Chamba, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Mandi, Lahul-Spiti, Solan, Shimla and Sirmour districts up to an elevation of 3000 m.

Morphology: It is an erect, rigid, perennial herb up to 2.5 m tall. The rootstock is fibrous, yellowish-brown, resembling liquorice but is knotty and extremely bitter and yellow inside. The flowers are usually pale-green often dingy-purple, polygamous, arising in branched terminal panicles. The leaves are pinnately decomposed, the leaflets are 4-6 mm in length, sub-orbicular and slightly lobulate. The achenes are 3.75 cm long and sharply ribbed.

Distinguished features: The achenes are flattened and ribbed and almost twice as long as broad.

Life cycle: Flowering and fruiting of the plant occurs from June to November. The plant roots remain dormant in the winter from October to November. New shoots arise with the melting of snow in April–May. The vegetative phase continues till July and the plants start flowering in June. Seed setting takes place in the month of September and the seeds reach physiological maturity by end of October.

Uses: The root is anti-periodic, diuretic, febrifuge, ophthalmic, purgative, salve, stomachic and is used as a bitter tonic during convalescence. It is considered to be a good remedy for atonic dyspepsia and is also useful in treating peptic ulcers, indigestion, fevers, toothache, haemorrhoids and for convalescence after acute diseases. The rhizomes and the roots are used in the form of a decoction, extract or powder and are valued for the treatment of ophthalmia. The paste of the plant is locally used in skin diseases and to suppress boils.

Market rate: The plant has a market rate of Rs.40-50/- per kg.