

ACONITUM

BOTANICAL NAME	:-	Aconitum balfourii
FAMILY	:-	Ranunculaceae
LOCAL NAME	:-	
HINDI NAME	:-	Meetha vish



HABITS AND HABITATS :-

The plant is found in the temperate alpine ravines in the Himalayas and also with the Rhododendron community at altitude between 2800m and 4200m.

PLANTS DESCRIPTION:-

The roots of this plant are tuberous with broad and depressed initial bud that is conical or hemispherical in shape. The scales are broad with a clasping base. They usually decay after sprouting. The stem is erect, robust, and more than a metre in height, generally with one to eight branches.

PARTS USED :-

Tuberous roots.

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES AND USES :-

The roots of this plant are diaphoretic, diuretic is analgesic, febrifuge, anti-inflammatory, anti-rheumatic, anti-pyretic, and vermifug. It is used in all types of pains and inflammation. In large doses, it acts as powerful sedative, narcotic and poison.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION:-

A C₁₉ diterpenoid alkaloid, 14- benzoylpseudoconine **1** has been isolated from the aerial parts of *Aconitum balfourii*

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY :-

Seed - best sown as soon as it is ripe. The seed can be stratified and sown in spring but will then be slow to germinate. When large enough to handle, prick the seedlings out into individual pots and grow them on in a cold frame for their first winter. Plant them out in late spring or early summer.
Division - best done in spring but it can also be done in autumn. Another report says that division is best carried out in the autumn or late winter because the plants come into growth very early in the year.