

ACONITUM HETEROPHYLLUM

BOTANICAL NAME	:-	Aconitum heterophyllum
FAMILY	:-	Ranunculaceae
LOCAL NAME	:-	
HINDI NAME	:-	Atees



HABITS AND HABITATS :-

The species is found in grassy slopes of Alpine Himalayan region, between 3000 m and 4200 m altitude, sometimes descending up to 2200 m. The shoot of atees is annual, while the root is biennial.

PLANTS DESCRIPTION:-

The stem is clasping and erect. The branches are absent or rarely one or two in number. Leaves are glabrous, sessile, and variable in shape and size. The tubers are up to 3 cm long, conical at ends. The mother and daughter tubers occur in pairs. The initial first bud of the daughter tuber is conic in shape.

PARTS USED:-

Dried tuberous roots

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES AND USES :-

Tubers are cooling in potency and bitter in taste. They are used as expectorant, febrifuge, anthelmintic, anti-diarrhoeal, anti-emetic, and anti-inflammatory. They are also used against poisoning due to scorpion or snake bite and to cure fever and contagious diseases. The aqueous extract of the root induces hyper-tension through action on the sympathetic nervous system and in higher doses, it becomes lethal.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION:-

Important chemicals called Aconitine have been extracted from the plant.

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY :-

The plant thrives well in moist soils and in the shade of trees. This plant is so tough it even grows marvelously in heavy clay soils and well in the open woodlands. Most of all it prefers a moist soil which contains the characteristic of calcium carbonate, calcium, or limestone, also in the sun or semi shade. The root is best harvested in the autumn as soon as the plant dies down and is dried for later use. This plant has many green leaves and grows as a greedy plant, inhibiting the growth of nearby species.