

BERBERIDACEAE

Podophyllum hexandrum Royle (= *Sinopodophyllum hexandrum* (Royle) T.S. Ying)

Common English name : Indian Podophyllum.

Vernacular names : Beng.: Papra; Guj.: Venivel; Hindi: Bakrachimaka, Bhananbakra, Papra, Papri; Kash.: Banwangan; Mar.: Padmel, Patnel; Punj.: Papri, Vankakri.



Podophyllum hexandrum Royle

Distribution : INDIA: Himalayas - Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh; E. AFGHANISTAN; CHINA; PAKISTAN; NEPAL and BHUTAN.

Habitat : Grows well as undergrowth in fir forests, rich in humus in shady localities in association with *Rhododendron*, *Salix*, *Juniperus* and *Viburnum* spp. at altitudes of 2500 and 4200 m. Also found in open alpine meadows.

Population status / Cause for RET : Endangered. Collected for its medicinal value. Cultivated in High Altitude Plant Physiology Research Centre, N. Sikkim and Kyongnosla nursery of State Medicinal Plant Board of Sikkim in East District.

Description : Erect, glabrous, succulent

herbs, 15-60 cm high. Rhizome perennial, 2-5 × 1-2 cm, bearing roots. Stems leafy at top. Leaves 2 or 3, orbicular-reniform, 6-15 × 3.5-10 cm, palmate, bilobed. Flowers solitary, cup shaped, white or pink. Berries oblong-ovoid, 2.5-5 × 2-3 cm, orange or red. Seeds numerous, enveloped in pulp, obovoid or suborbicular, 2-3 mm across.

Fl. : April - July; *Fr.* : May - October.

Parts used commercially : Rhizomes and roots constitute the drug. Freshly collected rhizomes are reported to contain more active principles which are lost on prolonged storing. The dried rhizome form the source of medicinal resin. Podophyllin obtained from the plant is cholagogue, purgative, alterative, emetic and bitter tonic and is given in conjunction with Belladonna and Hyoscyamus. Podophyllin is toxic and strongly irritant to skin and mucous membranes. Large doses cause severe vomiting and diarrhoea. It is used in veterinary medicine as a cathartic for dogs and cats, also used in removing warts in animals. Cardio-vascular effects of sublethal doses of podophyllin are reported to be wild and transitory.

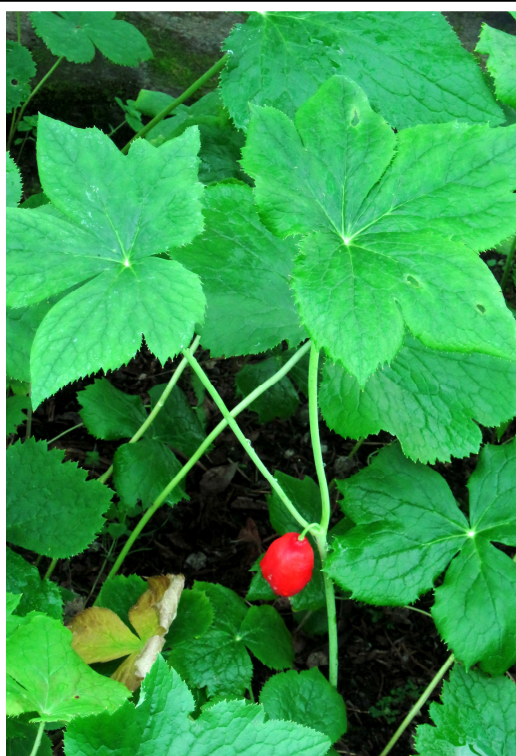
Legal : Listed in Appendix II of CITES. Included in Negative List of Exports.

References :

Jain, S.K. & A.R.K. Sastry (1980). Threatened Plants of India. A State -of-the-Art Report. P. 34.

Jain, S.K. & A.R.K. Sastry (1984). Indian Plant Red Data Book. Vol. 1, p. 57.

Selvam, A.B.D. (2012). Pharmacognosy of Negative Listed Plants. Pp. 160-170.



Podophyllum hexandrum Royle: Fruit

Photo Courtesy: A. Bhattacharjee