

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Aconitum*

*Ranunculaceae*

*Aconitum* is derived for some authorities from Greek *akonto* (dart, javelin, spear) with reference to the use of the plant juices as an arrow poison and for others from Greek *akone* (cliffy, rocky) with reference to its natural habitat. Yet others believe it means Aconitus Hill where the Greek god Heracles (Hercules to the Romans) wrestled successfully with Cerberus before briefly bringing him back to Earth and Eurystheus, king of Argos, as one of the last of his twelve labours.

The plants in this genus are poisonous with varying degrees of potency. Cultivated varieties have blue, white, yellow and violet flowers.