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*Aconitum ferox*

**INDIAN ACONITE** is a perennial. Native to northern India (particularly the Himalayas) it has small, dull blue flowers.

It is also known as *Bikh* (Indian), *Bish* (Bengali and Hindi), and Nepal aconite.

The flowers are pollinated by bees.

Warning – the roots contain a poison which is even more potent than its European counterpart.

*Ferox* means ‘ferocious, spiny or very thorny’.

Indian aconite was used by the Nepalese to poison water wells lying in the path of an advancing British army.

Today despite the plant’s extremely poisonous nature the dried roots can be found in Indian bazaars where they are sold for medicinal use. They have been used in the treatment of leprosy, cholera, fever and rheumatism.