

Anacyclus pyrethrum

[Synonyms : *Anacyclus depressus*, *Anacyclus freynii*, *Anacyclus officinarum*, *Anthemis pyrethrum*, *Matricaria pyrethrum*, *Pyrethrum officinarum*]

PELLITORY is a perennial. Native to the Mediterranean it has a purple tinged outer, yellow-centred, white flower.

It is also known as *Aaqar qarha* (Arabic), *Agargarha* (Arabic), *Agragrahi* (Sanskrit), *Akarakara* (Bengali), *Akarkara* (Hindi, Punjabi), *Akarkara plant*, *Akara-karava* (Sanskrit), *'Akar karha* (Arabic), *Akarakarabhah* (Sanskrit), *Akarakaramu* (Telugu), *Akarkara* (Sanskrit), *Akkalakara* (Kannada), *Akkalkara* (Marathi, Tamil), *Akkikkaruka Akkravu* (Malayalam), *Akkirakkaram* (Tamil), *Akorkaro* (Gujarati), *Alexander's foot*, *Algerian pellitory*, *Anakiklos o pyrethros* (Greek), *Anakikurusu* (Japanese), *Anakikurusu piresurumu* (Japanese), *Anatsiklus piretrinovyj* (Russian), *Anatsiklus piretruma* (Russian), *Arikaanse pyrethrum* (Dutch), *Atlasmadeliefje* (Dutch), *'Aud el'attas* (Arabic), *Bertram* (English, Russian, Swedish), *Bertrám římský* (Czech), *Bertramsrod* (Danish), *Bhringraj kul* (Sanskrit), *Deutsche Bertramswurzel* (German), *Fogfájógyökér* (Hungarian), *Franzosenwursel* (German), *Kot kak kra* (Thai), *Longwort*, *Marokkaanse kamille* (Dutch), *Marokkokamille* (German), *Mayweed*, *Mount Atlas daisy*, *Nemetskaia romaška piretrinoiaia* (Russian), *Œil de bouc* (French), *Pariétaire d'Espagne* (French), *Pelitre* (Catalan), *Pelitre romano* (Spanish), *Pellitory of Spain*, *Pire otu* (Turkish), *Piretoriumu* (Japanese), *Piretre africà* (Catalan), *Piretro romano* (Italian), *Piretrum* (Hungarian), *Pyrethre*, *Pyrèthre* (French), *Pyrèthre d'Afrique* (French), *Pyrèthre salivaire* (French), *Pyrethron* (Greek), *Pyrethrum*, *Pyrethrum root*, *Raimikki* (Finnish), *Raíz de pelitre romano* (Spanish), *Római bertram* (Hungarian), *Roman pellitory*, *Roman pyrethrum*, *Romaška sljunogonnaia* (Russian), *Romersk bertram* (Spanish), *Römischer Bertram* (German), *Römischer Bertramswurzel* (German), *Roomse bertram* (Dutch), *Roze kamille* (Dutch), *Spanischer Bertram* (German), *Spanish camomile*, *Spanish chamomile*, *Spanish pellitory*, *Speekselkruid* (Dutch), *Speichelwurz* (German), *Vuurkruid* (Dutch), and *Zahnwurzel* (German).

Essential oil is extracted from the dried root.

Warning – applied to the skin the root can cause local reddening.

Pyrethrum means 'pyrethrum-like', specifically *Tanacetum cinerariifolium* (now moved from *Pyrethrum* genus).

The essential oil is used commercially to flavour liqueurs. It is also used by the toiletry industry in mouthwashes, and is an ingredient for the pharmaceutical industry too.

Medicinally, in days gone by herbalists believed it could be a remedy for epilepsy, fever and bruising. It has also been used to treat rheumatic or neuralgic ailments in the head and face, and taken as snuff it has been recommended for catarrh. But beyond anything else for hundreds of years the root has been a remedy for toothache in countries as far afield as India and Britain and can still be chosen for this purpose today.