

*Asarum europaeum*

[Synonyms : *Asarum europaeum* var. *andreanszkyi*, *Asarum europaeum* forma *patens*, *Asarum europaeum* forma *pseudocapsicum*, *Asarum europaeum* var. *romanicum*, *Asarum officinale*, *Asarum renifolium*, *Asarum reniforme*, *Asarum rotundifolium*, *Hexastylis europaeum*, *Nardum rusticarium*]

**ASARABACCA** is an evergreen perennial. Native to the Caucasus, Europe (possibly including Britain) and Siberia, it has a large reddish-black (or purple) flower that is greenish-brown on the outside.

It is also known as *Asaret* (French), *Asarette* (French-Canadian), *Asaro* (Italian), *Asarum*, *Asarun* (Turkish), *Cabaret*, *Carn Ebol y Gerddi* (Welsh), European ginger, European snakeroot, European wild ginger, *Europeisk hasselört* (Swedish), Foal's foot, *Gewöhnliche Haselwurz* (German), *Haselwurz* (German), *Hasselört* (Swedish), *Hasselurt* (Danish, Norwegian), *Hazelwort*, *Kopytník európsky* (Slovak), *Kopytník evropský* (Czech), *Mansoor* (Dutch), *Oushuu saishin* (Japanese), *Ou xi xin* (Chinese), *Peittolehti* (Finnish), Public house plant, *Taggar* (Hindi), *Taponlehti* (Finnish), *Upana* (Sanskrit), Wild ginger, and Wild nard.

Warning – asarabacca (especially its essential oil) should only be used internally under the supervision of a qualified practitioner as it can have harmful side effects (ultimately death). The plant contains a carcinogenic banned in the United States.

*Europaeum* means 'of or from Europe'.

Asarabacca provides an ingredient for the drinks industry outside the United States for alcoholic beverages.

The dried leaves when used as snuff will cause sneezing and a copious flow of mucus, thus they were one of the ingredients in a tobacconist's 'head-clearin' snuff. Another traditional use was as an emetic (causing vomiting) after too much alcohol, a practice that may still be pursued in France today apparently. Herbalists also recommended asarabacca for treating toothache and eye and throat ailments.