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*Eruca vesicaria*

[Synonyms : *Brassica eruca*, *Brassica vesicaria*, *Eruca sativa*, *Eruca vesicaria* subsp. *sativa*]

**GARDEN ROCKET** is an annual or biennial. Native to western Asia and the Mediterranean it has small and purplish-veined, creamy-yellow or whitish flowers.

It is also known as Arugula (English and Italian), *Assu* (Punjabi), *Azoúmata* (Greek), *Bhutaghna* (Sanskrit), Edible rocket, *Garguir* (Arabic), *Oruga* (Spanish), *Raukenkohl* (German), Rocket, Rocket-gentle, Rocket-salad, Rognette, *Róka* (Greek), Roman rocket, *Roquette* (French), *Rucola* (Italian), Salad rocket, *Senapskål* (Swedish), *Shwetsursha* (Bengali), *Sinappikaali* (Finnish), and *Taramira* (Hindi); and in flower language is said to be a symbol of deceit, and rivalry.

Garden rocket should not be confused with dame's-violet (*Hesperis matronalis*).

*Vesicaria* is derived from Latin *vesica* (bladder) meaning 'bladder-like'.

Garden rocket was cultivated from the time of the Roman Empire through until the 17<sup>th</sup> Century in its native habitat and until about 1800 in north-western Europe. Today it is a common salad plant in Egypt, France and Italy, although it was also used once, medicinally, as an ingredient in cough syrup.

In Sudan garden rocket has also provided cattle fodder.