

Hibiscus trionum

[Synonyms : *Hibiscus africanus*, *Hibiscus hispidus*, *Hibiscus ternatus*, *Hibiscus ternatus* var. *ternatus*, *Hibiscus vesicarius*, *Trionum anuum*, *Trionum trionum*]

FLOWER-OF-AN-HOUR is an annual, biennial or perennial. Native to central Africa it has delicately scented, bright maroon-chocolate centred, creamy white to pale yellow flowers with a purple band up one side of each petal.

It is also known as *Ajannäyttäjä* (Finnish), *Ajannäyttäjähiskus* (Finnish), *Ajannäyttäjäkukka* (Finnish), Annual hibiscus, Black-eyed Susan, Bladder hibiscus, Bladder ketmia, Devil's-head-in-a-bush, *Drie-urenbloem* (Dutch), *Elfenbensblomma* (Swedish), *Gelber Hibiskus* (German), *Ginsenka* (Japanese), Goodnight-at-noon, Hibiscus, *Hibiskus jednoroczny* (Polish), *Ibišek trojdilný* (Czech), *Jiljil* (Arabic), *Ketmia poludniowa* (Polish), Modesty, *Murenda* (Kikuyu), Perennial hibiscus, *Puarangi* (Maori), Rosemallow, Shoofly, *Soo bahk pool* (Korean), Starry hibiscus, *Stundenblume* (German), *Stundeneibisch* (German), *Terblansbossie* (Afrikaans), *Timerose* (Norwegian), *Timvisare* (Swedish), Trailing hollyhock, Venice mallow, Venus' mallow, Yellow hibiscus, and *Ye xi gua miao* (Chinese); and in flower language is said to be a symbol of delicate beauty.

The flowers stay open until noon in duller weather.

Warning – occasionally sharp hairs can pierce the skin and cause irritation as they are difficult to remove.

Trionum is derived partially from Greek and Latin *tri-* (three) component meaning 'three-coloured'.

Medicinally, in China and Malaysia an infusion of flowers has been used to treat skin diseases. The African Xhosa tribe have used the plant to treat roundworm.