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*Hyoscyamus muticus*

**EGYPTIAN HENBANE** is a biennial. Native to Egypt and south-western Asia it has small, purple-blotched, greenish-white flowers.

It is also known as Henbane, Indian henbane, and *Sakran* (Arabic).

Warning – the leaves are poisonous.

*Muticus* means 'blunt or not pointed'.

The Bedouins, and local people in some areas of India, smoke the leaves to cure toothache, and as an intoxicant it is sometimes employed as an alternative to opium (*Papaver somniferum*).

Medicinally, this species is a source of the drug, atropine, but the plant cannot be viewed as an alternative for henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*) as its qualities are different. It is used today in nerve sedatives given for head and spinal disorders.