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Ipomoea purga

[Synonyms : *Convolvulus jalapa*, *Convolvulus officinalis*, *Convolvulus purga*, *Exogonium jalapa*, *Exogonium purga*, *Ipomoea jalapa*, *Ipomoea schiedeana*]

JALAP is an evergreen climber. Native to Middle and South America (particularly an area near Xalapa in Mexico) it has pale outside, purple or crimson flowers with prominent white stamens.

It is also known as *Echte Jalapa* (German), *Jalapa* (German), *Jalaparot* (Swedish), *Jalapa-Trichterwinde* (German), Jalap bindweed, *Jalape* (German), *Jalapenwinde* (German), *Jalapenwurzel* (German), *Jalapo* (Esperanto), Jalap root, Mexican jalap, *Purgierwinde* (German), and Vera Cruz jalap.

Resin can be extracted from the roots.

Warning – the root can cause violent purging and collapse. It should only be prescribed by a qualified practitioner and should not be taken internally if suffering from intestinal disorders.

Purga is derived from Latin *purgare* (cleansing, purgative) means ‘purging’.

The root today is a commercial ingredient used by the pharmaceutical industry in purgatives.