

*Oenanthe aquatica*

[Synonyms : *Oenanthe phellandrium*, *Phellandrium aquaticum*]

**WATER FENNEL** is an aquatic annual or biennial. Native to temperate Europe it has small white flowers.

It is also known as *Billebo-Klaseskærm* (Danish), *Cegid Manddail y Dŵr* (Welsh), *Ciguë aquatique* (French), Deathin, Edge weed, *Felandrio* (Esperanto), *Felandrio acuático* (Spanish), Fineleaf water dropwort, Fine-leaved water dropwort, *Finocchio acquatico* (Italian), *Finocchio acquatico cicutarario* (Italian), *Gemeiner Wasserfenchel* (German), *Gewöhnlicher Wasserfenchel* (German), *Grosser Wasserfenchel* (German), *Grosser Wasserrebendolde* (German), *Halucha vodná* (Slovak), *Halucha vodní* (Czech), *Haluchovec vodní* (Czech), *Hestekjørvel* (Norwegian), Horsebane, *Kropidlo wodne* (Polish), *Oenanthe aquatique* (French), *Oenanthe safranée* (French, Swiss), *Pahaputki* (Finnish), *Phellandre* (French), *Rebendolde* (German), *Rosskümmel* (German), *Stäkra* (Swedish), *Vandfennikel* (Danish), *Vattenstäkra* (Swedish), *Vizi borgyökér* (Hungarian), *Vizi mételykóró* (Hungarian), *Wasserfenchel* (German), *Wasserpferdesaat* (German), *Wasserrebendolde* (German), Water hemlock, and *Watertorkruid* (Dutch).

Warning – the whole plant is extremely poisonous and is not recommended for domestic use. The symptoms while serious are not as strong as those experienced from hemlock water dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*) and tend not to include convulsions. The plant is poisonous for animals.

*Aquatica* means ‘growing in or near water’.

Medicinally, the ripe fruit have been used to treat respiratory illnesses eg. asthma, catarrh and laryngitis. Water fennel is used today in homoeopathic treatments.