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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), Deathin, Edge weed, *Felandrio* (Esperanto), Fineleaf water dropwort, Fine-leaved water dropwort, *Halucha vodná* (Slovak), *Halucha vodní* (Czech), *Haluchovec vodní* (Czech), Horsebane, *Oenanthe aquatique* (French), *Stäkra* (Swedish), *Vattenstäkra* (Swedish), and *Wasserrfenchel* (German).

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.