

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Origanum dictamnus

[Synonyms : *Amaracus dictamnus*]

DITTANY is a deciduous subshrub. Native to Greece and Crete it has pink flowers surrounded by large, pinkish-purple petal-like leaves (bracts).

It is also known as *Amarak majoránový* (Slovak), Cretan dittany, Dictame, Dictame of Crete, *Diptamdost* (German), Dittany of Crete, Dittany of Greece, Hop marjoram, Hop plant, *Kretischer Diptam* (German), *Krétské oregano* (Czech), and True dittany; and in flower language is said to be a symbol of birth.

Dictamnus is derived from the genus name *Dictamnus* probably meaning ‘like the smell of burning bush (*Dictamnus albus*), the only species in that genus’.

Today it is grown primarily for ornamental reasons.

The ancient Greeks believed that if a goat hit by an arrow then grazed on dittany the arrow would fall out. Thus they used the plant to treat wounds (which for some authorities explains the Romans dedication of it to Diana, the huntress). It was later recommended by herbalists as a remedy for stomach-ache and chest disorders.