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Papaver argemone

PRICKLY POPPY is an annual or biennial. Native to southern Europe and to North Africa it has small, often centrally blackish-blotched, pale orange-red flower with many bluish-mauve stamens.

It is also known as *Amapola espinosa* (Spanish), *Amapola macho* (Spanish), Corn poppy, *Hietanikka* (Finnish), *Klubbevalmue* (Norwegian), *Klubbevallmue* (Norwegian), *Kølle-Valmue* (Danish), Long prickly-headed poppy, Long rough-headed poppy, *Mak piaskowy* (Polish), *Mák polní* (Czech), *Mak poľný* (Slovak), *Pabi bychan* (Welsh), *Pabi Hirben Gwrychog* (Welsh), Pale poppy, *Papavero selvatico* (Italian), *Papavero spinoso* (Italian), *Papoila-longa-peluda* (Portuguese), *Pavot argémone* (French), Prickly long-headed poppy, Red poppy, *Ruige klaproos* (Dutch), *Sandmohn* (German), Sand poppy, *Spikvallmo* (Swedish), *Spikvallmoe* (Swedish), and *Stekelpapaver* (Dutch).

The leaves contain whitish latex.

Warning – the whole plant is poisonous (especially the fruit).

Argemone is derived from the genus name *Argemone* meaning ‘like plants in that genus’.

Some records note that prickly poppy is cultivated as an ornamental plant in Indian gardens.

Medicinally, the plant has been used as a petal infusion or a syrup in local Spanish remedies requiring an agent to cause sweating.