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Pinguicula alpina

[Synonyms : *Pinguicula albanica*]

ALPINE BUTTERWORT is a carnivorous perennial. Native to the Arctic, the European Alps and the Himalayas, it has occasionally reddish-tinged, yellowish-orange throated, white flowers with a yellow-spotted lower lip and a short down-curving, hollow, yellowish spur.

It is also known as Alp butterwort, *Fjälltätört* (Swedish), Pale butterwort, *Tučnica alpínska* (Slovak), *Tučnice alpská* (Czech), *Tunturiyökönlehti* (Finnish), and *Valkoyökönlehti* (Finnish).

The perennial is a protected plant in some regions. It is threatened with extinction in Britain. *Alpina* means ‘alpine’ ie. found above the tree line.

Insects caught in the hairs on the leaves are inexorably rolled up and partially enveloped.

Ultimately the trapped insect dies and the butterwort starts to dissolve the body with digestive enzymes secreted by the leaf.