

Potentilla palustris

[Synonyms : *Comarum palustre*, *Potentilla comarum*, *Potentilla palustris* var. *parvifolia*, *Potentilla palustris* var. *villosa*]

MARSH CINQUEFOIL is a perennial. Native to Europe (including Britain) it has small star-shaped, pale or greenish outside, dark purplish-red flowers with many stamens.

It is also known as *Blutauge* (German), Bog strawberry, *Còig-bhileach Uisge* (Scots Gaelic), *Comaret-des-marais* (French), Cowberry, *Engjarós* (Icelandic), *Kårrklöver* (Swedish), *Kragefod* (Danish), *Kråklöver* (Swedish), *Kurjenjalka* (Finnish), Marsh fivefinger, Marsh fivefinger cinquefoil, Meadownuts, *Mochna bahenni* (Czech), *Myrhatt* (Norwegian), *Nátržnica močiarna* (Slovak), *Partsiyalg* (Estonian), *Partsivarbad* (Estonian), *Pumdalen y Gors* (Welsh), Purple cinquefoil, Purple marsh locks, Purple marshwort, Purplewort, *Soopihl* (Estonian), *Soopihlakas* (Estonian), *Sumpf-Blutange* (German), *Sumpf-Fingerkraut* (German), Swamp cinquefoil, Swamp potentilla, *Varesejalg* (Estonian), and *Zábělník bahenni* (Czech).

Palustris is derived from Latin *palus* (bog, marsh) meaning ‘of or from bogs, swamps or marshes’.

The reddish dye that was obtained from the flowers (some authorities say the root) was used locally in Europe on wool – while the underground stems (and the roots) were used for tanning and could produce a dull yellow colour.

The dried leaves have been used by the Alaskan Inuits for making a tea.

As a medicine Chippewa North American Indians have not only taken the plant for easing stomach cramps but have also used the root to cure dysentery.

Medicinally, local herbalists have recommended steeped root for curing stomach cramps.