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*Quercus aucheri*

[Synonyms :]

**BOZ-PIRNAL OAK** is an evergreen shrub or tree. Native to south-western Turkey, it has leathery greyish-green leaves and small sweet-tasting acorns.

It is also known as *Boz pırnal megesi* (Turkish).

The flowers are pollinated by the wind. This tree attracts insects which produce galls.

*Aucheri* honours the name of a French botanist, Pierre Martin Remi Aucher-Eloy (1792-1838) who collected and made a study of plants in Asia Minor, Arabia, Egypt, European Russia, Greece, Iraq, Palestine, Persia and Syria.

In the past the relatively sweet-tasting acorns have been eaten raw or roasted. These acorns have relatively little tannin in them apparently, thus they rarely needed to be processed by, for instance, steeping them for days in running water to remove any bitterness.

Ground roasted acorns have also provided a coffee substitute.

The bark is said to be rich in tannin and, together with the galls, has yielded a black dye as well.

Medicinally, the galls have been used to treat diarrhoea, dysentery and haemorrhaging.