

Rubus chamaemorus

[Synonyms : *Rubus pseudochamaemorus*]

CLOUDBERRY is a shrub. Found in northern temperate and Arctic climates it has small white flowers (some with many stamens).

It is also known as Averin, Bake apple, Bake-apple berry, Baked apple, Baked-apple berry, Dewater berry, Fintock, *Hjörtron* (Swedish), *Kamemoro* (Esperanto), Knotberry, Knoutberry, Molka, *Moltebeere* (German), Mountain bramble, Mountain raspberry, Mulberry, *Muldebær* (Danish), *Muurain* (Finnish), *Mwyar Dogfan* (Welsh), *Mwyaren Doewan* (Welsh), Naughtberry, Noops, Nowtberry, Nub berry, *Ostružina morušková* (Slovak), *Ostružiník moruška* (Czech), Outberry, Salmonberry, and Yellow berry.

It is protected in Northern Ireland under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

Chamaemorus is derived from Greek *chamai* (low-growing) and Latin *morus* (black mulberry, *Morus nigra*) components with reference to mulberry-like fruit on a low-growing plant.

The common name Cloudberry is actually derived from Old English and means ‘hill berry’.

The same meaning applies to Knotberry but in this instance the ‘knot’ originates in Middle English. Tradition in a Welsh mountain village accounts for *Mwyar Dogfan*. It was said to have begun from the wages of Dogfan Sant who looked after the parish and received two pints of cloudberry for his wardenship. This practice was said to have continued in the form of a waiver of church taxes granted for one year for any who gave the parish parson the quart of cloudberry during the Saint’s day morning.

Apparently in Britain the cloudberry was first discovered in the north of the Country during the Elizabethan era (1558-1603) by Thomas Hesketh who regularly collected plants for the English herbalist and barber-surgeon, John Gerard (1545-1612).

The raspberry-like, pinky-orange fruit which are plentiful in Norway, Finland and Sweden compared say with Britain, are a common ingredient in food and drink in Scandinavian countries. Here they are used to make jams and other preserves, fruit yoghurt, wine and liqueur and they can even be found for sale on supermarket shelves. It is fascinating to learn (and a measure of the fruit’s importance in the region) that it has been the subject of stern disagreement on occasion in the past between Norway, Sweden and Finland – so much so that the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs used even to have a special section to handle any cloudberry problems.

The cloudberry is the badge of the Scottish McFarlane clan.

On the North American Continent the shrub was familiar to both Indians and Inuits who ate the fruit (the Inuktitut Inuits, Alaskans, some of the Cree Indians, the Koyukon tribe and some of the Tanana) and valued the plant as a source of medicine. The fruit were made into various puddings by the Alaskans and some of the Tanana Indian tribe, as well as the Arctic and Inupiat Inuits. Both the Anticosti and some of the Tanana North American Indians used the fruit to make preserves, and some of the Tanana tribe also made them into jam. The berries were used to make a kind of ice cream by both the Arctic and Inupiat Inuits, and they were also preserved in various ways for future use by the Alaskans, by the Inuktitut, Inupiat and Alaskan Inuits, and by the Anticosti Indian tribe and some of the Tanana Indians. Diverse medicinal uses are illustrated by the Micmac

Indians and some of the Cree. The former used the shrub to treat tuberculosis, coughs and fever, while the latter turned to it as a remedy for some female disorders. Apparently bears are especially partial to cloudberry.