

# Medicinal Properties of Different Aconitum Species

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## Abstract

Aconitum L. is a large genus of the Ranunculaceae family containing more than 300 species spread around the world. Many of them emerge naturally in the northern hemisphere, at high altitudes. A total of approximately 76 of all aconite varieties cultivated in China and the far-eastern and Asian countries are used for various medicinal purposes.

Keywords: Medicinal • Aconitum lycoctonum • Herbal product • Ranunculaceae family

## Introduction

Aconitum L. is a large genus of the Ranunculaceae family containing more than 300 species spread around the world. Many of them emerge naturally in the northern hemisphere, at high altitudes. A total of approximately 76 of all aconite varieties cultivated in China and the far-eastern and Asian countries are used for various medicinal purposes. These are also used in Chinese medicine, particularly as painkillers, antirheumatic agents and less commonly as cardiotonics. In traditional Japanese medicine, bushi prepared from processed roots of the species Aconitum (especially *A. carmichaeli*) are widely used to alleviate muscle pain.

In Korea, the roots of *A. koreanum* are used for same and the manufacturing processes in Vietnam are unknown, and thus the tuberous roots of *A. Fortunei* are only indicated for external application as analgesic. In Ayurvedic medicine, Vatsnabhi is a herbal product that contains processed tuberous roots of various species of Aconitum used as diaphoretic, diuretic, antiperiodic, antidiabetic, antiphlogistic and antipyretic anodyne. Aconitum napellus L., with very similar morphological appearance to *A. Carmichaeli*, is also used in homeopathic treatments in Europe. Although of its toxic origin it was not common for its internal use. Aconitum's medicinal plant species are a rich source of alkaloids and flavanoids, many of which

demonstrate broad action spectrums. There are also many polysaccharides and free fatty acids which are isolated and classified.



Figure. Plantation of Aconitum L.

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