

Rheum webbianum

Himalayan Rhubarb



Scientific Name	<i>Rheum webbianum</i>
Common Name	Himalayan Rhubarb
Local Name	Lacchu
Family	Polygonaceae
Habit	Perennial herb
Habitat	High-altitude rocky slopes, alpine meadows and mountain valleys

Description

Rheum webbianum is a robust perennial medicinal herb native to the high-altitude Himalayan region, including Ladakh. It has a thick underground rhizome and large, broad, green leaves arranged mainly in a basal rosette. The leaves are long-stalked and prominently veined. The plant produces a tall flowering stalk with branched clusters of small flowers. It is well adapted to the cold, dry and harsh climatic conditions of high-altitude regions.

Traditional Medicinal Uses

The rhizome and roots are traditionally valued in Himalayan and Tibetan systems of medicine. They have traditionally been used for digestive complaints, purgative action, supporting digestive health, and certain inflammatory conditions.

Conservation Importance

Rheum webbianum is an important medicinal plant of the Himalayan ecosystem. Sustainable harvesting, cultivation and protection of wild populations are important for its long-term conservation.

Note: Medicinal use should be undertaken only under appropriate expert guidance. Different *Rheum* species may differ in their medicinal properties and safety.