

Botanic name: *Swertia bimaculata* (Siebold & Zucc.) Hook. f. & Thoms.

Family: Gentianaceae

Common name: Double-spotted Swertia

Habitat: Terrestrial

Distribution: Native to Eastern Himalayas and China found beside streams, swamps, meadows and forests 200-3000 m. In India, conservation efforts are in Shillong, Kohima in NE India

Description: Erect slender branched hardy biennial herb; Inflorescence lax panicles of cymes, many flowered; flowers yellow or white with purple spots, petals oblong to elliptic with narrow base and has two yellow-green spots carrying nectarines; anthers ellipsoid; stigma lobes are capitate; fruit capsule.

Phytochemicals: Xanthenes and their glucosides, Swertiamarine, mangiferin and amarogenine; alkaloids, flavonoids, irridoid, secoiridoid, triterpenoids

Medicinal/Economic uses: *Swertia* is used in Indian Ayurvedic Herbal System to cure fever as in 'Laghu sudarshana churna', 'Maha sudarshan Churna'; juice from dried stem used as antidiabetic, hypoglycemic, antioxidant, antihelminth, and in Tibetan folk medicine; also used as hepatoprotective and antioxidant