

Botanic name: *Selinum wallichianum* (DC.) Raizada & Saxena -- Indian Forester xcii. 323 (1966). (IK) [syn: *S. tenuifolium* Wall.ex Clarke]

Common name: Milk parsley (English), Bhut Kesh, Bhajadri

Family: Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)

Habitat: Terrestrial

Distribution: Native throughout Europe and central Asia; distributed in Indian Himalayas, NW Pakistan. Sensitive to climate change, habitat destruction and unsustainable exploitation for commercial purposes in Indian Himalayas

Description: Tap-rooted perennial herb, taproot elongate or cylindrical; stems erect, base clothed with fibrous remnant sheaths; ; leaves finely dissected, pinnate, large, basal leaves 2–3-pinnate or ternate-2-pinnate; stem leaves gradually reduced upwards, becoming sessile on expanded sheaths; inflorescence compound umbel, with small, white flowers, terminal and lateral; bracts entire, 2–3-lobed at apex, or 1–2-pinnate, or absent; rays numerous; bracteoles longer than umbels, lanceolate, ascending, margins white membranous; calyx teeth evident, linear-lanceolate, equaling or exceeding the stylopodium, unequal; petals white or pinkish, obovate, base cuneate, apex notched with small incurved lobule; stylopodium conic; styles ca. 2 × stylopodium, reflexed after flowering; fruits oblong-ovoid, compressed dorsally, glabrous; dorsal ribs thickened; lateral ribs broad-winged (2 × dorsal wings); seed face plane; carpophore 2-cleft to base.

Phytochemicals: Monoterpene hydrocarbons, sabinene, phellandrene, alpha-bisabolol, polyphenol, glycosides and coumarins (urocoumarins, bergapten, heraclenin and heraclenol), oils (roots), essential oil, α-bisabolol (71.80%), farnesol (3.56 %), germacrene D (2.39 %), citronellyl propanoate (2.35 %), α-bisabolol oxide B (2.26 %), sabinene (2.00 %), β-farnesene (1.53 %), limonene (1.21 %), root oil (polyacetylenes-nona-3,5-diyne-85.6% of the total volatiles), followed by nona-3,5-diyne-2-one, nona-4,6-diyne-3-one, nona-3,5-diyne-2-ol, and nona-4,6-diyne-3-ol)

Medicinal/ Economic uses: The herb is a high-value medicinal plant in India; seeds, roots and leaves of the plant are used in Indian Ayurvedic system for pharmaceutical, and commercial purposes. Root (known in India as 'Bhutkeshi') oils contain analgesic, sedative, hypotensive, incense and leucodermal properties. The whole herb and its roots are utilized as a nerve tonic, sedative, and a good substitute for *Nardostachys jatamansi*. Due to extensive, and unsustainable exploitation for its medicinal values, the herb in Himalaya has become threatened species