

# Proposed State Flower for Union Territory of Ladakh

## *Meconopsis aculeata* Royle (Vernacular Name: *Tser-sNon*)

*Meconopsis aculeata* Royle (syn: *Meconopsis bikramii* B.S. Aswal; *Meconopsis guilelmi-waldemarii* Klotzsch; *Papaver guilelmi-waldemarii* (Klotzsch & Garcke) Christenh. & Byng) belongs to a Papaveraceae family. It is one of the most beautiful flowers of Himalaya is locally known as *Tser-sNon* in Ladakh. It is assessed as one of the Critically Endangered plant in the CAMP workshop 2021.

*Meconopsis aculeata*, commonly known as “Himalayan Blue Poppy” is one of the most beautiful flowering plants in the alpine regions of Himalaya. It is a delicate perennial herb, stem reaching up to 60-80 cm with bristly hairs. Leaves deeply and irregularly pinnately lobed, bristly-haired. Flowers are usually blue, borne on long stalks. Flowering and fruiting occur in Mid-June to August. Fruit is a many-seeded capsules. Due to its attractive flowers the plant is having aesthetic value and is a potential ornamental plant. It is confined to the moist rocky slopes above 3500m asl. In Ladakh the species is found in Zanskar, Suru, Rangdum, Penza-la, Karnak etc.

The whole plant is used as medicine in *Sowa-Rigpa* system of medicine and is considered to have bitter taste and cooling potency. The herb has analgesic, antifungal, antibacterial and anti-inflammation activities. The species is highly valued as an ornamental and medicinal plant while the status of the plant is declining in Ladakh.

Declaration of *Meconopsis aculeata* as the state flower will increase awareness about the plant among the population and will highlight the significance of this beautiful flower of Ladakh. It will also strengthen the conservation efforts to save the plant.

If any suggestion or comments please write before 07<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to Dr. Padma Gurmet, Chairman, State Tree and Flower Committee, U.T Ladakh at Email: [nrisr.leh@gmail.com](mailto:nrisr.leh@gmail.com) with subject State tree and flower

