



State Flower of Ladakh

Himalayan blue poppy (*Meconopsis aculeata*)



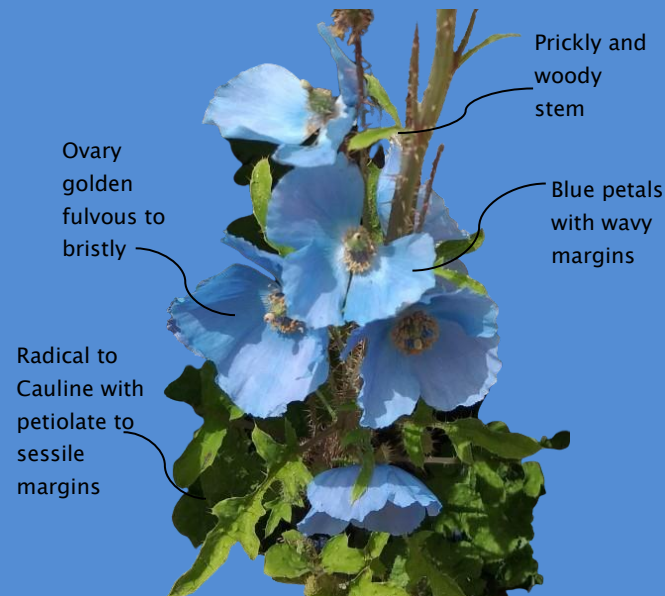
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Himalayan Blue Poppy

Welcome to Ladakh's alpine domain, home to the Himalayan Blue Poppy (*Meconopsis aculeata*). This unique flowering plant, revered for its scientific importance and striking appearance, adorns the rugged landscape with its distinctive blue petals. Endemic to high-altitude regions like Ladakh, this poppy thrives despite harsh conditions, showcasing nature's resilience. Exploring the botanical intricacies and ecological importance of this rare plant in Ladakh's alpine ecosystem is an amazing experience. *Meconopsis* is a small genus having 40-45 species with high ornamental and medicinal value, and is confined to Himalaya.



Global Distribution

Himalayan blue poppy is found in Western Himalaya to Southwest Tibet. In India it is distributed in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Ladakh.



In Ladakh it is mostly present near rocky mountain slopes and valleys in the altitude range of 8200-15400 ft. asl.

Key Facts:

- Perennial herb growing upto 60 cm (2ft)
- Hermaphrodite
- Flowering in July to August
- Flowers blue or mauve with yellowish anthers
- Family: Papaveraceae



Pledge to protect the Queen of the Himalayas, The State Flower of Ladakh

(Notification no. 01 of 2023, dated- 26/12/2023)



References: www.iucnredlist.org
worldfloraonline.org

For more information contact:
Wildlife Protection Department, Ladakh
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Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai
bnhs.org

A rare jewel?

The Himalayan blue poppy is endemic to the Himalayas.

But here's the kicker

These poppies aren't just eye candy. They're also superstars in the world of herbal medicine, valued for their healing powers. However, it's popularity comes at a price, as over-collection threatens its existence in the wild. Time to protect and conserve this natural heritage and nature's wonder.



Fun facts about Himalayan Blue Poppy:

Meet the Poppy, *Meconopsis aculeata*

A rare flowering plant with striking blue blooms and a touch of thorns!

Resilient plants with amazing adaptations

They're erect, perennial herbs with stems that can get woody at the base. The plant makes sure to protect their fragile petals from harsh wind by blooming near rocky outcrops and scree.

Their leaves are like nature's own kaleidoscope, with intricate patterns ranging from pinnatifid to palmatifid.

The Queen of Himalaya, steals the show with their vibrant blue hues. And guess what? They have magic to relieve ailments with antipyretic and analgesic properties.

