**Morphological Description**

Erect annual, glabrous herb 5-20cm high, without a basal leaf-rosette. The stem is erect and stiff, usually branched in the lower part. 2-4 cauline internodes. Leaves are rosette, sessile, ovate, lanceolate, acute; basal leaves are obtuse. The upper leaves are ovate, lanceolate, acute and smaller. Flowers are 1-1.2 cm, pink, rarely white, forked, cymose-paniculate, usually long-pedicellate, corolla tube, 1-2 times longer than calyx segments. Lobes are oblong and obtuse. Stamens are inserted at the apex of the corolla-tube. Stigma is oval, the anthers oblong. The fruit is a two-valved many seeded capsule. Seeds are minute and bright brown. Flowers from March to May.

**Geographical Distribution**

**Local:** Fairly common, grows mainly among cultivated crops by water sides in Fayoum area and the North coast, in Sinai  
**Regional:** Some North African Countries  
**Global:** Eurasia. Western Europe, Eastwards to China

**Ecology**

Moist soils, sheltered mountain crevices of Sinai and around fresh water springs

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**Centaurium pulchellum (Swartz) Druce,**  
Fl. Berkshire 342 (1898),  
*Gentiana pulchella* Swartz;  
*Gentiana ramosissima* (Vill.) Pers.;  
*Erythraea pulchella* (Sw) Fr.;  
*Centaurium ramosissima* (Vill.) Druce

**Names**

**Arabic:** Qantariuon  
**English:** Branching Centaury  
**French:** Centaurea

**Status**

The plant grows in specific moist habitats, which are subjected to changes and drying. The plant is endangered in Egypt.

**Part(s) Used**

The whole flowering and fruiting herb.

**Collection**

flowering and fruiting herb stage from July to September

**Preparations**

infusion, decoction and ointments

**Use**

oral and external

**Constituents**

Coumarins and coumarin glycosides; amidimin (xantotoxin), ammidin and majudin (bergapten), alkaloid gentianine, a bitter principle kanturin, oleanolic acid, erythrosterol and xanthones.

**Pharmacological Action and Toxicity**

Not available

**Pharmacopoeia**

Not available

**Traditional Medicinal Uses**

- Anti-diabetic
- Elimination of stones from the kidney and urethra
- Gastric and abdominal pain
- Hypertension
- Healing agent for wounds
- Renal colic
- Rheumatic pains

References


General References


Mela, A. J., Cajander, A. K. (1906); Suomen Kasvio; Viides painos.