



# *Aethusa cynapium* L.

## APIACEAE

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### Local Names

**Georgian:** მარამძმარა (mariamdzmara); **Russian:** кокорыш (kokorish); **Armenian:** შიკაროს (shikaros) (Grossheim 1952; Ketskhoveli et al. 1971–2011; Makashvili 1991; Sokolov 1988).

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## Botany and Ecology

Biennials or annuals; root thin, fusiform; stems usually single, 30–100 cm high, faintly ribbed, hollow, branching, like leaves glabrous; leaves bi- or tripinnate, dark green, very shiny beneath when fresh; leaflets triangular or ovate, deeply cut or parted; lower leaves on petioles, the upper sessile on dilated sheath. Umbels opposite leaves, long-peduncled; rays 12–18, unequal, scabrous above; involucre absent or of 1–2 leaflets; involucels asymmetrical, of 3 recurved leaflets with scarious base and margins, nearly twice as long (var. *gigantea* Lej.) or as long as pedicels (var. *cynapioides* (M.B.) Ficus et Heynh.); petals white or slightly reddish, obcordate, cuneate at base, elongating in peripheral flowers; stylopodium flat-inflated; fruit 2–3 mm long, 2–2.5 mm wide, with arcuate canals toward commissure. Flowering June–October. Ural, Caucasus, weed, kitchen gardens, gardens, shrubs, felled areas, floodplain forests (Shishkin 1950).

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## Phytochemistry

Alkaloids (Coniine) (Sokolov 1988).

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## Local Medicinal Uses

The leaves are used to treat gum disease (Bussmann et al. 2016, 2017).

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## Local Food Uses

The leaves are used as food (Bussmann et al. 2016).

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## Local Handicraft and Other Uses

*Aethusa cynapium* contains the poisonous alkaloid cynapine and causes poisoning in horses, cows, and pigs who usually avoid the plant because of its disagreeable odor (Grossheim 1952; Sokolov 1988).

The leaves are used to dye wool yellow (Grossheim 1952; Sokolov 1988).

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