

April 2022

### **Hollowroot-birthwort; Hollowroot**

*Corydalis cava* (L) Schweigg & Körte

From the poppy family (Papaveraceae)

Perennial herbaceous plant, the aerial parts of the plant retract by early summer. The hollow tuber remains in the soil as a perenating organ. The stem is unbranched, from which arise 2 bare, blue-green, double tridentate leaves and a terminal, racemose inflorescence. The hollowroot shows its reddish, violet or white flowers from March to May. It is an early nectar provider for long-trunked bees.

Chemical compounds: alkaloids

The whole plant is slightly poisonous, the hollow tuber is strongly poisonous.

The hollowroot is a shade-loving plant, it is found in moist deciduous forests and riparian woods, preferably on calcareous soil.

Commercially available are also cultivated forms. In the garden they prefer nutrient-rich soil and semi-shadowed locations such as under deciduous shrubs. Dryness and waterlogging should be avoided.

The tubers are laid in the fall and kept moist. If the hollowroot feels comfortable in its location, it can colonize larger areas in the garden for years. The dissemination is also helped by ants, which spread the seeds.

