RUMEX HYDROLAPATHUM. WATER DOCK.

SYNONYMA. Hydrolapathum. *Pharm. Edinb.* Lapathum aquaticum, folio cubitali. *Bauh. Pin. p.* 116. Hydrolapathum magnum. *Gerard Emac. p.* 389. Hydrolapathum majus. *Park. Theat. p.* 1225. *Raii Hist. p.* 171. *Synop. p.* 140. §. 1. Lapathum foliis longè lanceolatis, paniculis densissimis. *Hall. Stirp. Helv. n.* 1588. R. Hydrolapathum. *Hudson. Flor. Ang. p.* 154. *Withering. Bot. Arr. p.* 374. *Relhan. Flor. Cant. p.* 149.

Class Hexandria. *Ord.* Trigynia. *Lin. Gen. Plant.* 451.

Ess. Gen. Ch. *Cal.* 3-phyllus. *Petala* 3, conniventia. *Semen* unicum triquetrum.

Sp. Ch. R. floribus hermaphroditis: valvulis integris graniferis, foliis lanceolatis acutis. *Hudson, l. c.*

THE root is perennial, large, thick, externally black, internally whitish: the stem is erect, channelled, branched, green, and rises about five feet in height: the upper leaves are long, narrow, and on the flower-spikes linear and pointed; those at the bottom of the stem are near a foot and a half in length, of a narrow ovate form, somewhat indented at the edges, and stand upon long strong channelled footstalks: the flowers are numerous, and hang in whorled spikes upon slender peduncles: the calyx is divided into three narrow pointed permanent segments: the corolla consists of three petals, which are ovate, narrow, pointed: the stamina are six, short, slender, and furnished with erect double antheræ: the germen is turban-shaped, triangular, and supports three reflexed styles, terminated by rough glandular stigmata: the capsule is formed of the three petals, which by approaching each other assume a triangular form, and in this state

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Class Hexandria. *Ord.* Trigynia. *Lin. Gen. Plant.* 451.

Ess. Gen. Ch. *Cal.* 3-phyllus. *Petala* 3, [illegible] triquetrum.

Sp. Ch. R. floribus hermaphroditis: valvulis integris granifera, foliis lanceolatis acutis. *Hudson, l. c.*

THE root is perennial, large, thick, [illegible] whitish: the stem is erect, channelled, [illegible] rises about five feet in height: the upper leaves are long, narrow, and on the flower-spikes linear and pointed; those at the bottom of the stem are near a foot and a half in length, of a narrow ovate form, somewhat indented at the edges, and stand upon long [illegible] channelled footstalks: the flowers are numerous, and [illegible] whorled spikes upon slender peduncles: the calyx is divided into three narrow pointed permanent segments: the corolla consists of three petals, which are ovate, narrow, pointed: the stamina are six, short, slender, and furnished with erect double antheræ: the germen is turban-shaped, triangular, and supports three reflexed styles, terminated by rough glandular stigmata: the capsule is formed of the three petals, which by approaching each other assume a triangular form, and in this state

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are called *valves*; these are very large, ovate, pointed, slightly notched towards the base, and furnished with an oblong grain, extending down the middle of each valve: the seed is solitary, ovate, triangular. It is a native of England, growing in ditches, pools, and rivers, and flowers in July and August.

The Hydrolapathum of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia is referred to the R. aquaticus of Linnæus, which is supposed to be a different species from the Hydrolapathum of Mr. Hudson,[a] though the same synonyms are ascribed to both. The plant here represented, which was found in the river Rodon, near Woodford Bridge, by having toothed valves, does not agree with the specific characters given by either of these authors; but it seems to correspond exactly with the description of it subjoined by Dr. Withering.[b]

The root, which is the part of this plant directed for medicinal use, has a strong austere taste, and readily strikes a black colour to a solution of ferrum vitriolatum, and yields its active matter both to water and to rectified spirit.

Many of the Lapatha[c] were formerly officinal herbs, of which the Water Dock has been esteemed to be the most efficacious, and by the Edinburgh College is still retained in the Materia Medica: the leaves, which manifest considerable acidity, are said to possess a laxative quality, and have therefore been used to obviate costiveness: the roots are strongly astringent, and have been much employed both externally and internally for the cure of scurvy;[d] especially when the gums are spongy, and frequent hæmorrhages supervene. It is also recommended in various other cutaneous defœdations, and in visceral obstructions: and in order to give the Hydrolapathum additional importance, Muntingius has taken great pains to prove that it is the *Herba Britannica*

[a] *L. c.* [b] *L. c.*

[c] From λαπαζω, evacuo λαπτω, idem. Alston.

——— Si dura morabitur alvus,
Mitulus & viles pellent obstacula conchæ
Et Lapathi brevis herba. HORAT. SAT. 4. lib. 2. v. 27.

[d] Linnæus speaks highly of its use. Vide *Amœn. vol.* 4. *p.* 38. *Flor. Suec. p.* 118. And in *Lind's Treatise on the Scurvy*, *p.* 264.

of the ancients;[e] but many physicians still think this root does not peculiarly differ from other astringents, and are sceptical enough to place no faith in the great virtues ascribed to it by Muntingius and Sir John Hill.

[e] *Diss. Hist. Med. de vera herba Britannica.* See *Dios. l.* 4. *c.* 2. *Plin. lib.* 25. *c.* 3.
The powdered root is said by Murray to be an excellent dentrifice. *App. Med. vol.* 3. *p.* 344.

PIMPINELLA SAXIFRAGA. SMALL BURNET-SAXIFRAGE.

SYNONYMA. Pimpinella. *Pharm. Edinb.* Pimpinella saxifraga minor. *Bauh. Pin. p.* 160. Pimpinella seu saxifraga minor. *Gerard. Emac. p.* 1044. Saxifraga hircina minor. *Park. Theat. p.* 947. *Raii Hist. p.* 445. *Synop. p.* 213. Tragoselinum foliis pinnatis, pinnis ovatis. *Hall. Stirp. Helv. n.* 786. P. Saxifraga. *Hudson. Flor. Ang. p.* 127. *Lightfoot. Flor. Scot. p.* 169. *Withering. Bot. Arr. p.* 313. *Relhan. Flor. Cant. p.* 124. *Ic. Flor. Dan.* 395. *Flor. Dan.* 669.

Class Pentandria. *Ord.* Digynia. *Lin. Gen. Plant.* 366.

Ess. Gen. Ch. *Fructus* ovato-oblongus. *Petala* inflexa. *Stigmata* subgloboſa.

Sp. Ch. P. foliis pinnatis: foliolis radicalibus subrotundis; summis linearibus.

THE root is perennial, spindle-shaped, whitish: the stem is erect, round, scored, downy, jointed, towards the top a little branched, and rises above a foot in height: the leaves are variously shaped, pinnated, alternate; on the upper part of the stem they divide into simple linear