

This gluten or mucilaginous matter with which the *Althæa* abounds, is the medicinal part of the plant, and is commonly employed for its emollient and demulcent qualities. Its use is recommended where the natural mucus of membranes becomes acrid or abraded; "for obtunding and incrassating acrimonious thin fluids, in tickling coughs from defluctions on the fauces and lungs, in hoarseness, erosions of the stomach and intestines, stranguary, † and for lubricating and relaxing the passages in nephritic and calculous complaints." <sup>c</sup> *Radix Althææ* formerly had a place in many of the compounds in the pharmacopœias, but now it is only directed in the form of a syrup.

† We may here remark however, that in the opinion of Dr. Cullen these "demulcents can have no effect as such in the mass of blood, or in passing by the various excretions." *Mat. Med. vol. ii. p. 411.*

<sup>c</sup> Lewis l. c.

## MALVA SYLVESTRIS.

## COMMON MALLOW.

*SYNONYMA.* *Malva. Pharm. Lond. & Edinb.* *Malva sylvestris folio sinuato. Baub. Pin. p. 314.* *Malva vulgaris flore majore, folio sinuato. J. Baub. Hist. vol. ii. p. 949.* *Malva vulgaris. Park. Theat. p. 299. Raii Hist. p. 599. Synop. p. 251.* *Malva caule erecto, foliis lobatis, lobis ferratis, quinis & septenis. Hal. Stirp. Helv. n. 1069.* *Malva sylvestris. Gerard. Emac. 930. Withering. Bot. Arrang. p. 738. Curt. Flor. Lond.*

*Class* Monadelphia. *Ord.* Polyandria. *Lin. Gen. Plant.* 841.

*Eff. Gen. Ch.* *Cal.* duplex; exterior 3-phyllus. *Arilli* plurimi, monospermi.

*Sp. Ch.* *M.* caule erecto herbaceo, fol. septemlobatis acutis, pedunculis petiolisque pilosis.

THE root is perennial, thick, long, whitish, and furnished with many strong fibres: the stem is erect, round, strong, hairy, branched, and rises from one to three feet in height: the leaves are numerous, roundish,





*Malva sylvestris*

Malva sylvestris L.



This glutin or mucilaginous matter with which the Althæa abounds, is the medicinal part of the plant, and is commonly employed for its emollient and demulcent qualities. Its use is recommended where the natural mucus of membranes becomes acid or abraded: \* for softening and increasing acrimonious thin fluids, in tickling coughs from defluents on the fauces and lungs, in hoarseness, erosions of the stomach, small intestines, strangury, &c. and for lubricating and relaxing the passages in nephritic and cutaneous complaints. \* Radix Althææ formerly had a place in many of the compounds in the pharmacopœias, but now it is only directed in the form of a Syrup.

† We may here remark however, that in the opinion of Dr. Cullen these \* demulcents can have no effect as long as the mass of blood, or in passing by the various excretions. \* *Mat. Med. vol. II. p. 411.*

Lewis L. C.

MALVA SYLVESTRIS. COMMON MALLOW.

SYNONYMA: Malva. Pharm. Lond. & Edinb. Malva sylvestris folio fissato. *Boerh. Pin. p. 119.* Malva vulgaris flore majore, folio fissato. *J. Barb. Hist. vol. II. p. 949.* Malva vulgaris. *Park. Theat. p. 299.* *Rain Hist. p. 330.* *Synop. p. 251.* Malva caule erecto, foliis lobatis, lobis serratis, quinis & septenis. *Rad. Stirp. Helv. n. 1069.* Malva sylvestris. *Cæsar. Emor. 93.* *Wæbering. Bot. Arrang. p. 738.* *Curt. Flor. Lond.*

Class Monadelphja. Ord. Polyandria. *Lin. Gen. Plant. 821.*

Eff. Gen. Cb. Cal. duplex; exterior 5-phylla. Arilli plurimi, monopermi.

Sp. Cb. M. caule erecto herbaceo, fol. septemlobatis acutis, pedunculis petiolisque pilosis.

THE root is perennial, thick, long, whitish, and furnished with many strong fibres: the stem is erect, round, strong, hairy, branched, and rises from one to three feet in height: the leaves are numerous, roundish,





*Malva sylvestris*

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roundish, divided into five or seven lobes, unequally ferrated or notched at the edges, and stand upon long round hairy footstalks: the two stipulæ are placed at the base of each footstalk: the flowers are large, consisting of five petals, which are inversely heart-shaped, sinuated at the apex, and of a purple colour, painted with veins of a deeper hue, and stand upon slender peduncles, which proceed from the bottom of the leaf-stalks: the calyx is double, the outer is composed of three, and the inner of five oval pointed hairy segments: the stamina are numerous, united at the base in a cylindrical shape, above separate, bending downwards, and furnished with kidney-shaped antheræ: the germen is roundish: the style cylindrical, short, and furnished with many filiform stigmata: the seeds are numerous, of a kidney-shape, and covered with a coat, or arillus, which opens inwardly. It is common under hedges and in waste grounds, and flowers from June till September.

This plant<sup>a</sup> has a strong affinity to the Althæa both in a botanical and in a medicinal respect; but the roots of the malva are useless, while those of althæa are of more efficacy than any other part of the plant. Accordingly we find that only the leaves and the flowers of the former are directed by the college for pharmaceutical purposes. Formerly when horticulture was little understood, and of course the choice of esculent vegetables extremely limited, the malva was admitted amongst the more common articles of diet;<sup>b</sup> and we are told that the Chinese still eat the leaves of mallow either raw as fallad, or boiled as spinage.<sup>c</sup>

Respecting the medicinal qualities of this plant, little remains to be said after the account we have given of Althæa, as the leaves

<sup>a</sup> “ Malva quasi molva quod alvum molliat, ut inquit Festus, secundum tritum illum Scholæ Salern. versiculum, dixerunt malvam veteres quia molliat alvum. Gr. μαλαχον, απο μαλασσειν, ob eandem rationem. Utrumque etymon improbat C. Hoffman nec tamen meliora substituit.” *Tournf.*

<sup>b</sup> ————— Me pascunt olivæ

Me cichorea leveſque malvæ.

*Hor. l. 1. Od. 31.*

Exoneraturas ventrem mihi villica malvas

Attulit, & varias, quas habet hortus, opes. *Martial.*

The laxative quality of this plant is also mentioned by Cicero.

*Epistol. lib. 7. epist. 26.*

<sup>c</sup> *Melanges interessans et curieux. Tom. 4. p. 28.*

afford



afford a similar glutinous juice, which is fitted to answer the same purposes as those of marsh-mallow, and are therefore principally used in fomentations, cataplasms, and emollient enemas; but the internal use of these leaves seems to be wholly superseded by the radix althææ.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> " Althææ in omnibus supra dictis efficacior radix." Plin. Nat. Hist. vol. 2. p. 662.

LAVANDULA SPICA. COMMON LAVENDER.

*SYNONYMA.* Lavendula. *Pharm. Lond. & Edinb.* Lavendula angustifolia flore cæruleo. *Baub. Pin. p. 216.* Lavendula minor sive spica. *Gerard. Emac. p. 584. Raii Hist. p. 513. Park. Theat. p. 73.* Pseudo-nardus quæ Lavendula vulgo. *J. Baub. Hist. vol. iii. p. 282.* Lavandula foliis lineribus, spicis nudis. *Hal. Stirp. Helv. n. 232.*

*Varietates sunt.*

- α Lavandula angustifolia flore cæruleo. *Baub. Pin. p. 216.*  
Narrow-leaved blue flowered common Lavender.
- β Lavandula angustifolia flore albo. *Baub. l. c.*  
Narrow-leaved white flowered common Lavender.
- γ Lavandula latifolia. *Baub. l. c.*  
Broad-leaved common Lavender. *Vide Aiton. Hort. Kew.*

*Class* Didynamia. *Ord.* Gymnospermia. *Lin. Gen. Plant. 711.*

*Ess. Gen. Ch.* Calyx ovatus, subdentatus, bractea suffultus. *Corolla* resupinata. *Stamina* intra tubum.

*Sp. Ch.* L. foliis sessilibus lanceolato-linearibus margine revolutis, spica interrupta nuda.

THE root is perennial, thick, fibrous, and woody: the stalk is shrubby, much branched, and often rises to the height of five or six feet: the bark of the younger shoots is of a pale-green colour, but of