



PRODUCT SHEET

Hercampuri (*Gentianella alborosea* (Gilg.) Fabris)

FAMILY : Gentianaceae (Gentian Family)

COMMON NAMES: "hercampuri", "hercampure", "bitter tea", "Chavín tea". **QUECHUA:** "hjircan pureck". **SPANISH:** *Peru* "hercampuri", "hercampure", "hilcampure", "hircampuri", "té amargo", "té de Chavín".

DESCRIPTION: Dwarf, leafy, perennial herb, 1 cm to 5 cm tall, forming a cushion, like grass. Stem very short, herbaceous, dark-brown colored, 5 mm in diameter; branches dichotomic. Root longer than the stem. Leaves tiny, opposite and distributed in rosette, dark-green colored, 6 mm to 7 mm long, simple, thick, sessile, and with no stipules. Flowers little, bisexual, gamopetalous, arranged in cymose inflorescences; calyx green, pentamerous, campanulate (bell-shaped); corolla 15 mm long, white, lilac, pink, carmine, or yellow, corolla lobes 8 mm to 9 mm wide; stamens five; gynoecium (pistil) with two carpels (bicarpelar) forming a long unilocular ovary that contains many ovules. Fruit a capsule with many seeds, dehiscence septical; seeds numerous, small and black or dark brown.

ORIGIN AND DISTRIBUTION: Native to South America, particularly to the Andes Mountain Range, in the Puna region. *Gentianella alborosea* proliferates spontaneously in the Northern Andes grasslands in Peru, most frequently between 4000 m and 4500 m asl. Very cold habitats; reported in Junin, Cerro de Pasco, Huánuco, Ancash, Cuzco, Puno, Cajamarca, and La Libertad.

PARTS USED: Root, whole plant.

PROPERTIES: antibacterial, antidiabetic, body weight reducer, choleric, colagogue, depurative, digestive, diuretic, febrifuge, hepatoprotective, hypocholesterolemic, lipolytic, lipotropic, liver cleanser, and sudorific; against bacterial infections, gallbladder diseases, diabetes, fever, hypercholesterolemia, liver diseases, obesity, respiratory diseases, stomach disorders, and toxins in blood.

PHYTOCHEMICALS: Iridoid heterosides (pentiopicroside, amorogentipside), glycosides (erytaurin, erythrocentaurin), gentisic acid, essential volatile oils, unsaturated lactones (amarogentin, gentiopicroin, erythrocentaurin, gentiopicrosides), sugars (gentianose), mucilages, tannins, gentianic acid, hemicellulose, xanthones, phenic acid, sesterterpenoids (alborosin), secoiridoids, and xanthines