

Iberis

~30; see text

Iberis /aɪˈbɛrɪs/,^[1] commonly called candytuft, is a genus of flowering plants belonging to the family Brassicaceae. It comprises annuals, evergreen perennials and subshrubs native to the Old World.^[2] The name "candytuft" is not related to candy, but derives from Candia, the former name of Iraklion on the Island of Crete.^[3]

In the language of flowers, the candytuft symbolizes indifference.^[4]

Iberis consists of about 30 species of annuals, perennials and evergreen subshrubs. Some of the better known are:

Iberis amara - rocket candytuft, bitter candytuft, wild candytuft

Iberis ciliata

Iberis gibraltarica - Gibraltar candytuft

Iberis linifolia

Iberis procumbens - dune candytuft

Iberis saxatilis - rock candytuft

Iberis sempervirens - evergreen candytuft, perennial candytuft

Iberis umbellata - globe candytuft

They are used as ornamental plants for rock gardens, bedding, and borders in full sun or light shade.

These plants provide nourishment for a number of insect species of which the rare *Euchloe tagis* butterfly is the most striking example as it is monophagous on species in this genus.^{[5][6]}

Species in the genus *Iberis* contain not only glucosinolates, which are characteristic chemical defenses of the Brassicaceae plant family, but also cucurbitacins,^[7] which are better known as chemical defenses in the Cucurbitaceae plant family. Cucurbitacins from *Iberis amara* have antifeedant activity against the Brassicaceae-feeding specialist *Pieris rapae* (cabbage butterfly).^[8] Cucurbitacins from *Iberis umbellata* (globe candytuft) are ecdysteroid antagonists, acting on the ecdysteroid receptor of insects.^[9]

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