

Agrimonia

About 15 species; see text

Agrimonia (from the Greek ἀγριμόνη),^[1] commonly known as agrimony, is a genus of 12–15 species of perennial herbaceous flowering plants in the family Rosaceae,^[1] native to the temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere, with one species also in Africa. The species grow to between 0.5–2 m (1.6–6.6 ft) tall, with interrupted pinnate leaves, and tiny yellow flowers borne on a single (usually unbranched) spike.

Agrimonia species are used as food plants by the larvae of some Lepidoptera species including grizzled skipper (recorded on *A. eupatoria*) and large grizzled skipper.

In ancient times, it was used for foot baths and tired feet.^[2] Agrimony has a long history of medicinal use. The English poet Michael Drayton once hailed it as an "all-heal" and through the ages it was considered a panacea.^[citation needed] The ancient Greeks used agrimony to treat eye ailments, and it was made into brews for diarrhea and disorders of the gallbladder, liver, and kidneys.^[citation needed] The Anglo-Saxons boiled agrimony in milk and used it to improve erectile performance.^[3]

They also made a solution from the leaves and seeds for healing wounds; this use continued through the Middle Ages and afterward, in a preparation called eau d'arquebusade, or "musket-shot water".^[4] It has been added to tea as a spring tonic.^[2] According to the German Federal Commission E (Phytotherapy)-Monograph "Agrimony", published 1990, the internal application area is "mild, nonspecific, acute diarrhea" and "inflammation of oral and pharyngeal mucosa" and the external application "mild, superficial inflammation of the skin".^[5]

Traditional British folklore states that if a sprig of *Agrimonia eupatoria* was placed under a person's head, they would sleep until it was removed.^[6]

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