**HERBALPEDIA**

**WORMWOOD, BLACK**

*Artemisia genipi*  
[ar-te-MIZ-ee-uh]  
*(A. spicata)*

**Family:** Compositae

**Names:** Schwarze Edelraute (German); génipi (French); genepi nero (Italian)

**Description:** Black wormwood is found exclusively in alpine regions, growing in siliceous rocky regions at over 10,000 feet. It is a small shrub, not much more than 4 inches high, and completely covered in down, which gives it a silky white appearance. Compound, three-lobed, deeply divided leaves sprout from the base of the creeping, unbranched stems. The small heads of yellowish flowers are covered by dark bracts forming spikes. Considered partially endangered

**Cultivation:** Propagate by seed in spring and clump division in fall. Crop yield ranged from 0.4 to 0.6 t/ha of flower heads. Harvesting the flower heads only can be started in the second year.

**Constituents:** Volatile oil, bitter principle.

**Properties:** tonic, digestive, expectorant, balsamic

**Medicinal Uses:** Action is similar to that of wormwood only slightly less bitter and a little less efficacious. It stimulates gastric secretion. In medicine it may be replace by wormwood, which is better for sluggish digestion and stomach disturbances. Not often used because of scarcity.

**Other Uses:** The whole plant contains bitter aromatic principles used in the manufacture of herbal liquors.

**References:**  
*Medicinal Plants*, Hans Fluck, W Foulsham & Co., 1988; IBN 0-572-00996-8

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