

Hepatica falconeri

Description:

Habitus: perennial, herbaceous, 6 - 20 cm tall, new leaves emerge in March, the plants remain in growth until October and the leaves start to turn yellow in November.

Roots: compact rhizome, with elongated, membranous scales at the tip.

Leaves: Basal leaves 3-lobed, reni-cordiform, in the beginning villous, later sparsely hirsute, deeply incised; lobes rounded to rhomboid, broadly cone shaped, two to threefold with broad teeth and serrated lobes or just simply incised-serrated with broad obtuse tip or slightly sharp-pointed teeth; long petioles, with soft hairs sticking out horizontally.

Flowering time: March-April-June

Flowers: Perigonium; ♀, radial symmetric, basal, 1-flowered; 3 (seldomly 4) small, entire involucre bracts, narrowly ovate to oblong, almost acute, entire, rarely with (usually 3) small, pointed teeth at the tip, with flat-laying soft hairs; above that the flower on a short pedicel (ca. 8 mm), 1 - 2 (-3) cm ø and 5 (sometimes 6) sepals, which are white, sometimes with a reddish underside, ovate-oblong, blunt or lightly sharp tips, glabrous or at the base with flat-laying soft hairs; pedicel upward growing or erect, as long as or longer than the petioles, thin, seemingly weak, mostly undulated, hirsute similar to the petioles but to a lesser extent.

Style: yellowish-greenish

Stigma: yellowish

Filaments: white

Anthers: white to yellowish

Ovaries: greenish

Seeds: narrowly oblong, gradually getting thinner to the tip, lightly curved, circular, villous.

Chromosomes: $2n = 14$ (diploid)



Hirsute underside leaf



leaf shoot



Leaf- and flowerbuds

Distribution:

Central Asia; India: Northwest of the Himalayas, district Himachal Pradesh and the district Jammu and Kashmir, northwest of China, Tianshan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan: Pamir-Alay; the north of Pakistan: mountain areas; Kazakhstan: North-Tianshan (Ile-Alatau), at high altitudes, in thickets and forests, rocky mountain slopes, on calcareous soil rich in organic matter. (Included in the list of endangered plant species by decision of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dd. 31 Oct. 2006)

Cultivation and propagation:

Soil with a lot of organic matter, humid, grow in shade.

Will die down if too hot in summer. Propagation by sowing immediately after seeds are ripe or by division after flowering.

Hardiness:

Perfectly hardy, especially in areas with a reliable snow cover. I've been growing them in my garden for 3 years underneath a dwarf conifer. They increase easily from seed, although we almost never have snow and temperatures down to -15°C (deliberately without winter covering)



Flower



Flower



Natural Habitat Ile-Alatau



Seed head



Seeds



In cultivation



Natural Habitat Ile-Alatau