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# Cannabis sativa L.

## CANNABACEAE

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### Synonyms

***Cannabis sativa* L.**: *Cannabis chinense* Delile; *Cannabis indica* Lam.; *Cannabis sativa* var. *indica* (Lam.) E. Small & Cronquist

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**Fig. 1** *Cannabis sativa* (Cannabaceae), Svaneti, Georgia. (Photo R.W. Bussmann & N.Y. Paniagua-Zambrana)



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## Local Names

**Georgian:** კანაპი (k'anapi); ქან (qan) (Grossheim 1952; Ketskhoveli et al. 1971–2011; Makashvili 1991; Fedorov 1984); **English:** Cannabis

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## Botany and Ecology

Annual; stems 50–150 cm, covered with appressed hairs; leaves long petioled, with 3–5–7 elongated-lanceolate lobes, coarsely serrate; inflorescences in the axils of upper leaves, spreading, the staminate flowers in panicles, the pistillate in spikes; fruit a gray achene, not jointed at base, strongly adherent. Flowering June–July. Ural, Caucasus, Altai, along rivers, on steep cliffs, rocky slopes, near roads and settlements (Bobrov and Komarov 1936) (Figs. 1, 2, and 3).

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## Phytochemistry

Alkaloids (THC, cannabin, cannabinine), tannins, essential oils, vitamins (C), fatty acids (Fedorov 1984).

**Fig. 2** *Cannabis sativa* (Cannabaceae), Svaneti, Georgia. (Photo R.W. Bussmann & N.Y. Paniagua-Zambrana)



**Fig. 3** *Cannabis sativa* (Cannabaceae), Svaneti, Georgia. (Photo R.W. Bussmann & N.Y. Paniagua-Zambrana)



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### Local Medicinal Uses

The leaf extract is used for skin diseases and scabies. The flower infusion was traditionally used for toothache (Fedorov 1984). *Cannabis* is widely used medicinally, e.g., in the Himalayas of Pakistan for constipation and dysentery, as sedative,

for snakebites, as intoxicant, to kill lice, as diuretic and purgative, and for asthma (Umair et al. 2019).

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## Local Food Uses

The seeds are eaten in the Ural and Caucasus and are an ingredient for Svanetian salt (Bussmann et al. 2016a, b, c, 2018; Fedorov 1984).

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## Local Handicraft and Other Uses

The stem fibers are traditionally used to make ropes and sacks, packing, strings, nets, canvas, and lacework. Poisonous to horses and pigs (Fedorov 1984). The fibers are used to make rope (Bussmann et al. 2016a, b, c, 2018; Fedorov 1984).

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