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NEUROLOGICAL STAMP

Rosa canina (dog rose)

The Roman naturalist Pliny attributed the name dog rose to a belief that the plant's root could cure the bite of a mad dog. It is not clear if the dogs were rabid. The use of the dog rose in prescriptions dates back to Hippocrates but precisely what for is unclear. As a medicinal plant it came into full bloom in the second world war. When Britain was unable to import fresh citrus fruits the government organised the gathering of dog rose fruits, or hips, which were known to be a rich source of vitamin C. Processed into syrup the rose hips helped to prevent scurvy and, today, the plant is valued as a rich source of vitamin C.

The dog rose is illustrated as part of a commemorative set issued for the International Congress of Pharmacology held in Prague in 1971 (Stanley Gibbons 1980, Scott 1773).

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