

36270 Dyer's broom

Dyer's broom, *Genista tinctoria* L.
Family: Butterfly plants (Fabaceae)

Dyer's broom is a poisonous plant!

The poisonous alkaloid cytisine is contained mainly in the seeds and leaves.

Dyer's broom is a thornless semi-shrub that grows up to 80 cm high and is native to Central Europe. The yellow flowers, up to 1.5 cm long, are arranged in clusters. When touched, the petals burst open and the flower opens.

Historical

Dyer's broom was in England, for example, at the time of King Edward III. (1312-1377) the most important plant for yellow dyeing. By over-dyeing woad, the famous "Kendal green" was produced. The green got its name from the town of Kendal, in the vicinity of which the dyer's broom grew in large numbers. The dyeing method was introduced by emigrants from Flanders.

Dye extraction

The dyeing plant parts are best collected and dried before flowering.

Dyeing

Like reseda, dyer's broom belongs to the mordant dyes. The dyeing is done on pre-stained wool. Since dyer's broom is not as strong in color as reseda, the dye extract must be particularly concentrated. With alum mordant, a lemon yellow is obtained, which becomes dark brown by post-treatment with iron(II) sulfate. With copper(II) sulfate as a mordant, a green-olive color is also accessible.