

BANANA-PASSION FRUIT *Passiflora mol-lissima*.

BANANA SHRUB *Magnolia figo* Perry.

BANANA YUCCA *Yucca baccata* (Datil)
USA Yanovsky. The fruits are rather like bananas, in appearance as well as in texture - another name is Fleshy-fruited Yucca.

BAND PLANT *Vinca major* (Greater Periwinkle) Wales B & H. Really a translation of the Latin name. Vinculum means a band, and Vinca is derived from this.

BANE BERRY *Actaea spicata* (Herb Christopher) B & H. Because the berries are poisonous. The effects are severe, but seldom fatal - quickening of the heart action, with gastro-enteritis and dizziness, lasting for about three hours. European names, which translate something like troll's berry, or witches' or devil's berry, are given for the same reason.

BANE BERRY, Red *Actaea rubra*.

BANE BERRY, Western *Actaea arguta*.

BANE BERRY, White *Actaea alba*.

BANE BIND *Convolvulus arvensis* (Field Bindweed) Prior. Bane is a word which survives in the name of poisonous plants (flea-bane, wolf's bane, etc), so in one sense it is not appropriate here. In another sense, coupled with bind, it is entirely appropriate.

BANEWORT 1. *Atropa belladonna* (Deadly Nightshade) Som. Macmillan. 2. *Bellis perennis* (Daisy) Yks, Cumb, N'thum. B & H. 3. *Ranunculus flammula* (Lesser Spearwort) Gerard. 4. *Ranunculus lingua* (Greater Spearwort) B & H. 5. *Ranunculus scleratus* (Celery-leaved Buttercup) B & H. Bane is poison, applicable to Deadly Nightshade and to all the Ranunculi, which are acrid and cause blistering. Prior says that Banewort was applied to the Spearwort because it was thought harmful to sheep, an accurate statement, for Salmon says the harm it does them is to ulcerate the entrails. Daisy is the odd one out. The older form of Banewort is in this case Banwort, and here it means bone - "The Northern men call this herbe a Banwort because it helpeth bones to

knyt agayne" (Turner).

BANJO FIG *Ficus lyrata* (Fiddle-back Fig) Rochford. There seems to be a heap of difference between banjoes, fiddles and lyres. However, there must be something about this West African variety which binds them together.

BANK CRESS *Sisymbrium officinale* (Hedge Mustard) Prior.

BANK THISTLE 1. *Carduus nutans* (Musk Thistle) B & H. 2. *Cirsium vulgare* (Spear Plume Thistle) B & H. Both of these thistles have the name Buck Thistle in Yorkshire. Which came first?

BANK THYME *Thymus drucei* (Wild Thyme) Berks. Grigson.

BANNAL; BANNELL *Cytisus scoparius* (Broom) both Corn. (Bannal) B & H; (Bannell) Jago. See also Banadle, Banathal. Bannell would be better with one 'l', for the word is Cornish banal, broom flower or besom.

BANNER, Dog *Anthemis cotula* (Maydweed) Yks. Grigson. Banner is probably not the same as the application to the daisy (bone). Dog Binder comes from the same area. The 'dog' part of it refers to the bad smell.

BANNER, Golden *Thermopsis rhombifolia* (False Lupin) USA Kingsbury.

BANNERGOWAN *Bellis perennis* (Daisy) Dumf. Grigson. The gowan part of the name is typically North Country and Scottish, and is the same as gule, or gold (i.e. the gold in Marigold). In actual fact, it seems to be applied to any daisy-like flower, irrespective of colour. The 'banner' part of the name is probably related to the word ban, bone - see Banwort.

BANNET-TREE; BANNUT-TREE *Juglans regia* (Walnut) both Glos. Grose (Bannet); B & H (Bannut); Bannut also Ches. Holland. Bannuts for the nuts themselves are more widespread; they occur in Glos, Heref, Shrop. B & H; Wilts. Akerman; Som. Jennings. This seems to have been the usual word in the West Country, walnut being reserved for the timber.

PUCK NEEDLE 1. *Agrostemma githago* (Corn Cockle) Suss. Grigson. 2. *Scandix pecten-veneris* (Shepherd's Needle) Som. Grigson; Hants. Cope. The fairies' needle, of course, and a reference to the long, pointed seed vessels. 'Needle' names for cockle probably refer, Grigson says, to the long teeth of the calyx.

PUCKER NEEDLE *Scandix pecten-veneris* (Shepherd's needle) Tynan & Maitland. A variation on Puck Needle; so are Pook-, Poke-, and Pink-needle.

PUDDING *Melandrium rubrum* (Red Campion) Som. Grigson. They are also known as Plum Puddings in the same area.

PUDDING, Black *Typha latifolia* (False Bulrush) Som. Macmillan; IOW Long. Descriptive, of course.

PUDDING, Gooseberry *Epilobium hirsutum* (Great Willowherb) Suss. Grigson. There are all sorts of pies and puddings for willowherb, all probably stemming from the claim that the plant smells like apples when it is crushed. Perhaps it does, but it is probably Gerard's Coddled Willowherb that is the origin, someone mistaking 'coddled' for 'codlin'.

PUDDING, Plum 1. *Epilobium hirsutum* (Great Willowherb) Ches. Holland. 2. *Melandrium album*. 3. *Melandrium rubrum* (Red Campion) Som. Macmillan.

PUDDING-BERRY *Cornus canadensis* (Bunchberry) W Miller. Does this mean what it says?

PUDDING-GRASS; PUDDING-HERB *Mentha pulegium* (Pennyroyal) Turner (Pudding-grass); Yks. F K Robinson (Pudding-herb). Pennyroyal is used to make stuffings for meat, and stuffings used to be called puddings.

PUDDING-PIPE TREE *Cassia fistula* (Indian Laburnum) Coles. "Because the Cod is like a Pudding", in Coles's words.

PUFF CLOCKS *Taraxacum officinale* the seed heads (Dandelion) Som. Macmillan.

PUFF CLOVER *Trifolium fucatum*.

PUG-IN-A PINNER *Primula vulgaris* 'elatior' (Polyanthus) Coats.

PUGLEY'S MARSH ORCHID *Dactylorhiza traunsteineri*.

PUKAPUKA *Brachyglottis repanda* (Rangiora) RHS.

PUKEWEED *Lobelia inflata* (Indian Tobacco) USA Henkel. Cf. Gagroot, Vomitwort, and Emetic-weed. The dried leaves and tops are used as an expectorant, and it acts upon the nervous system and bowels, causing vomiting.

PULIALL-MOUNTAIN *Thymus drucei* (Wild Thyme) Gerard. A corruption of serphyllum montanum, according to Prior. But perhaps it was pulegium montanum, an old name. Cf. also Pell-a-mountain, and Penny Mountain.

PUKOTEA *Laurelia novae-zelandiae*.

PULIALL-ROYAL *Mentha pulegium* (Pennyroyal) Gerard. Pennyroyal is a corruption of this name, which is from Latin pulices, fleas, because it is good for destroying them. The 'royal' part of the name, it is said, came from the fact that they were used in royal palaces for just this purpose.

PULL-DAILIES *Dactylorhiza incarnata* (Early Marsh Orchid) Scot. B & H. Balderry is the type name in Scotland for this kind of orchid. Pull-dailies is a variation of a corruption of that name, Bull-daisy.

PULL-POKER *Typha latifolia* (False Bulrush) Ess. Gepp.

PULPIT, Devil-in-the- *Tradescantia virginica* (Spiderwort) Perry. Cf. Moses-in-the-bulrushes. Presumably they are both reflections on the way the flower hides itself in the foliage.

PULPIT, Jack-in-the- 1. *Arisaema triphyllum*. 2. *Arum maculatum* (Cuckoo-pint) Corn, Som, Lincs. Grigson. In both cases, the spadix is the jack, and the spathe the pulpit.

PULPIT, Lamb-in-a-; PULPIT, Man-in-the-; PULPIT, Old Man's *Arum maculatum* (Cuckoo-pint) Dev. Friend. 1882; Wilts. Grigson (Lamb-in-a-pulpit); Som. Macmillan (both Man-in-the-pulpit and Old Man's