

2.3

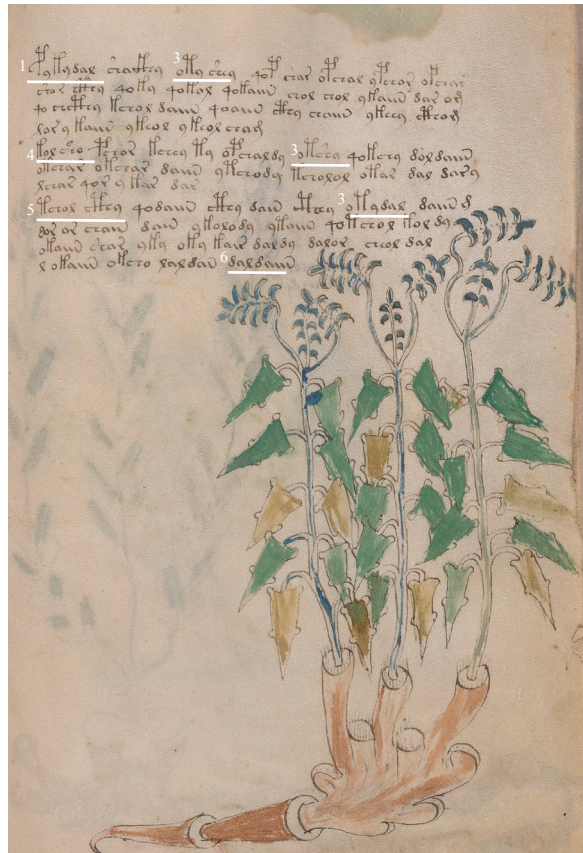
The Voynich Plants and their Names.

Folio 45r-96v

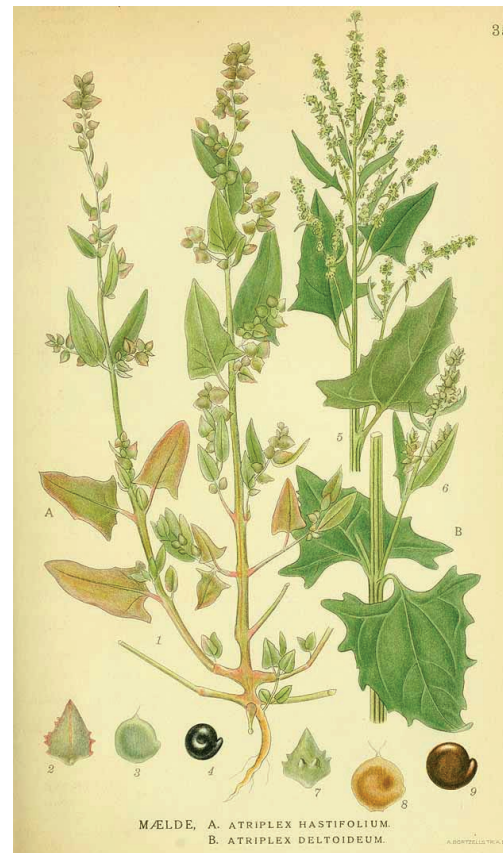
Version 2, october 15th 2022

Siv Bugge Vatne

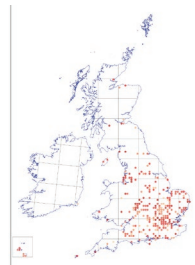
- 1 *fəlləsaɪ*
betedəʒ
bétethegh
bete-thegh
- TH: *beet*, *betis* =
Atriplex hortensis
MEC: *Thegh* =
stem
- 3 *əllə ɛɛə/əlləɛə/*
əlləsaɪ
oke Rie/okRe/okdəʒ
wk(e rie/re/thegh
?hawke or woke
writhe/wre/thegh
?Hawk or wake
wreath/wort/stalk
- 4 *koʒɛɔ*
koʒRo
togh-ro
tough-?wreo
tough/viscous-?cover
- 5 *klɔʒ ɛllə*
klɔʒ (kl)e
klogh kle
?Clogh cle/clei
?cliff-root/clay
- 6 *ʒəʒdawn*
ʒdʒdawn
theghdewn
theghed wyn
stalked vine



F45r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Photo source: *Atriplex prostrata*. Lindman, C.A.M., *Bilder ur Nordens Flora*Photo source: *Pedicularis palustris*. By Jcomeau ictx - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

The first name in this folio is **beitethegh**. *Beet* and *betis* are registered names for *Atriplex hortensis*, and **thegh** means *stalk* (MEC). *Atriplex hortensis* has only one stalk growing from the root. But there is another *Atriplex* that have a more similar root. It is **spear leaved orach**, **Artiplex prostrata**. It has a tap root that gives rise to several stalks. The leaves are also strikingly similar. They are depicted with the same variation of colors of green and light brown as in the illustration by Lindman. The flowers and stalks are dark red or purple. The other names in this folio are not related to any registered names of *Atriplex* (TH/MEC). The very last word can be a description or a name, **theghdewn**. *Thegh* was found in the first name **beite-thegh**. *Thegh* was translated to *stalk*. I believe **theghdewn** is related to **theghed-wyn**, meaning *stalked vine*. Spear leaved orach may have been called a stalked vine because it is both prostrate and stalked. Sometimes it ascends up to one meter tall.



A. *prostrata*: By the sea, Saline marshes, sea beaches and strands, rarely inland along waste areas and railroads. sand, gravel, loam and clay soils

1 orare
orare
arere
hare-ere

TH: Hare-ear =
Hylotelephium
telephium

2 toglie
tohlie
togh-lief
viscous (succu-
lent?)-leaf

3 f-roh-ord
fRozo(rd)
f-roh-ord
fei/vei-?ruff-wort
enchanted/road-
rogh (?land) wort

4 go kach lown
go kach lown
go kach lown
go cachie loven
go catch love

5 eit-riwr
eit-riwr
eit-riwr
eite-?wrei-wr
wealth/money-
prophesy-wort

Associated with
the modern name:
witch's moneybag

TH: peniwort =
Hylotelephium
telephium



F45v. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

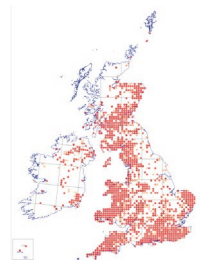


Photo source: Hylotelephium telephium. Fuchs, L., New Kreüterbuch (1543)



Photo source: Hylotelephium telephium. Bernd Haynold - Self-photographed, CC BY-SA 3.0

This herb was identified by the name *orere*. I associate it with *hare-ear*, a registered name for **orpine**, *Hylotelephium telephium* (TH). Orpine matches the illustration well. It has sessile leaves with wavy margins spread along the stalk. The root has several stalks growing from it. Orpine spreads fast by root, and propagation can be from root division. I believe this is symbolized by drawing the root long and with many cuts. Historically orpine was used for love-divination. The second paragraph starts with: *Go kach lown*. I believe it is related to *go cachie loven*, meaning *go catch love* (MEC). The third paragraph gives the herb the name *eit-riwr*. I believe it can be related to *eite-wrei-wr*, meaning *wealth/money prophesy wort*. Both modern and medieval vernacular names for orpine can be associated with this. It was called *peniwort*, and is now called *witch's moneybag*.



Sandy to gravelly soils of moderate to low fertility, part shade, sun; disturbed soil; roadsides, old fields, waste places, ditches, gardens, swamp margins, woodland.

1 𐌱𐌿𐌳𐌹𐌳𐌹𐌳𐌹
blio(b)le
plicable
pile-belle
pile bell

MEC: Pile-wort =
Ficaria verna

2 𐌱𐌿𐌳𐌹𐌳𐌹𐌳𐌹
ki(sd)e dekide
kiste theikide
chiste thacched
chest covering

3 𐌱𐌿𐌳𐌹𐌳𐌹𐌳𐌹
bldaur Rd
pldeur rd
piled-wr ?red
piled-wort ?red



f46r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

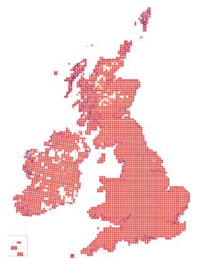


Photo source: *Ficaria verna*. Fuchs, L., New Kreüterbuch (1543)



Photo source: *Ficaria verna*. 4028mdk09 - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

The first name of this herb is *pilioble*. I believe it can be related to *pile-belle*. *Pile* is found in *pile-wort*, a registered vernacular name for **pilewort**, *Ficaria verna* (MEC). *Pil* can be read in the sense of hemorrhoids, as the plant has been used to treat piles (hemorrhoids). The illustration matches pilewort. It shows yellow flowers and a root that gives rise to several stalks. If this is a pilewort, there are two strange things. The leaves are separated at the wrong side and the stalk divides into flowers. The first may be an error. The second may be a way to illustrate that the plant carries several flowers. The petals may be too small to color, or it may be a subspecies with white sepals like the cultivar Alba group. The root has a striking similarity. Pilewort grows in clumps of three to four stems. It has two types of roots. One of them forms a dense cluster of thick, pale-colored elongated tubers. The other surrounds it by patches of short, fibrous roots. Pilewort spreads by runners to produce extensive carpets of plants. The second name in this folio can be associated with this, *kiste thekide*. It can be related to *kiste thacched*, translated to **chest covering** (MEC). Dioscorides writes that “a decoction of it gargled with honey powerfully purges the head, and purges all things out of the chest.”



Woods, hedge banks, meadows, roadsides, maritime grassland, the banks of rivers and streams and shaded waste ground. Damp, loamy or clay soils, and avoids very dry, very acidic or permanently waterlogged sites

1 f46v gccc
bode hRi(sd)
bode h-rist
bode hie-rist
“bode” hue vir-
tuous

TH: Bodewine,
goldesbothun,
?budel, budent =
Chrysanthemum
segetum.

MEC: Hie/hue
= hue



f46v. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.



Photo source: Top: *Glebionis segetum* (as syn. *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*) plate 10 in: C.A.M Lindman: *Bilder ur Nordens Flora* first edition: (1901-1905) supp. edition (1917-1926. Bottom: *Tanacetum parthenium*, Köhler, F.E., Köhler's *Medizinal Pflanzen* (1883-1914).



Photo source: *Glebionis segetu* by Tigerente - Own work, CC BY 2.5
Bottom: *Tanacetum parthenium* by 4028mdk09 - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

Bode h-rist is the first name of this herb. **Bode**, **bothun** and **bud** are found in the registered names of **corn marigold**, **Chrysanthemum segetum**. **H** have formerly been associated with **hie**, meaning **hue** (MEC). It is found in the names of plants that are used as a dye. Corn marigold can be used to produce a yellow dye. The last part of the plant name, **rist**, means **virtuous**. The illustration is interesting. The root looks like a winged symbol. The circling stalk looks like a symbol too. The leaves are long, lobed and toothed. They are more complicated than the leaves of corn marigold. It may be an indication that this is a wrong identification. The root can be a branched taproot. But I am not really satisfied with the match neither the leaves nor the root has with corn marigold. It looks more like another *Chrysanthemum*, **feverfew**, **Tanacetum (Chrysanthemum) parthenium**. I do not find any match in the registered names for feverfew. Registered names amongst others are *feverfew*, *fwetherefoy*, *holyywort*, *erthegalle*, *fefyrfoy*, *feverfoile*, *aldwort*, *witwort*, *centaurea minor*, *erigalle*, *vethervoy*, *feyesfoye*, *hersgal* and *?poseire*. Taking a closer look at the flowers in the photo above of fevefew they look very much like the illustrated herb. The root and leaves are also matching better. Feverfew was being grown in gardens for medicinal use by 995

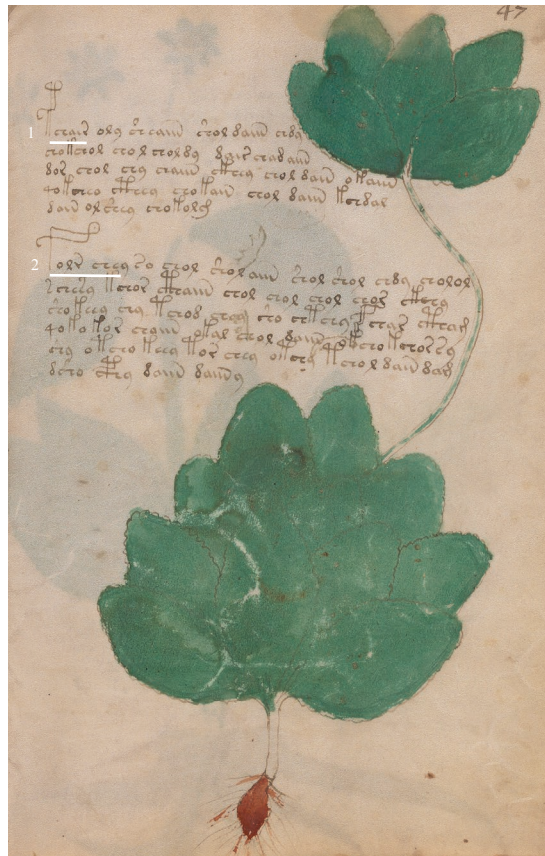
1 ⲥⲁⲩⲣ
laur
leur
laur
laurel

TH: *Laur* = Lau-
rus nobilis

2 ⲫⲟⲓⲣ ⲥⲉⲓ
foḡr lie
?foḡr lie
?foge-lief
?catarrh leaf
or
?fonger-lief
?helper/protec-
tor-leaf

MEC: *foge* =
catarrh

Laurel oil has
been used against
catarrh



F47r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

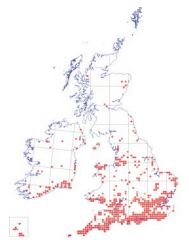


Photo source: *Laurus nobilis*. Flora von Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz, (1885).



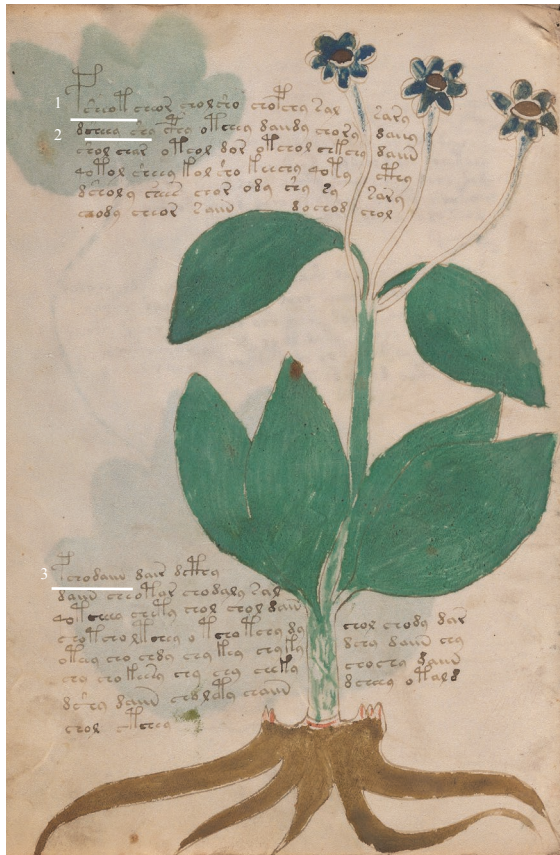
Photo source: *Laurus nobilis*. Giancarlolessi, CC BY-SA 3.0

The first name of this herb is **leur**. It is close to the registered vernacular name **laur**, used for **laurel**, **Laurus nobilis** (TH/MEC). The shape of the leaves matches. I have found no pictures of the root. The shape of it may indicate a growth from the fruit stone. The illustration may show the propagation of laurel. The lower plant can be planted by seed and the upper plant propagated by layering. The second name is **foḡr lie**. It is either related **fonger lief**, meaning **helper leaf** (MEC), or related to **foge lief**, meaning **catarrh leaf**. The Roman naturalist Pliny the Elder listed laurel oil to treat catarrh. Dioscorides writes about laurel: “Both are warming and softening, as a result a decoction of them is good as a hip bath for disorders of the vulva and bladder.... The bark of the root breaks stones [kidney, urinary]” (D).



Woodland and scrub and
on sea-cliffs, dunes, road-
sides and river banks.

- 1 *þriok*
briok
b(-)riok
?bi rók
?by/be smoke/
mist/rock/cliff
- 2 *dRme Re*
dRme Re
th rne re
the renne wre
Running/rhizome
wort
- 3 *blodawn*
blodawn
bladewn
bladewyne
- TH: Bladewyne =
Gentiana



F47v. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.



Photo source: Gentiana purpurea. Hayne, F.G., Getreue Darstellung und Beschreibung der in der Arzneykunde gebräuchlichen Gewächse (1805-1846).



Photo source: Gentiana verna. By Opiola Jerzy - Own work, CC BY 2.5.

The name that identifies this herb, is the first word in the second paragraph, **bladewn**. I believe it is related to **bladewyne**, a registered name for **gentian**, **Gentiana**. I do not know exactly which kind of gentian this illustration shows. It is interesting to look at the root, and the small details drawn in red. There are some gentian species depicted in a similar way. Particularly interesting is the small shoots from the root. **Gentiana asclepiadea** or **Gentiana purpurea** has those small root shoots. By now I believe *Gentiana purpurea* is the most similar to the illustration. It has a rosette of elliptical leaves in addition to two leaves higher up on the stalk. The flower is brownish purple. *Gentiana purpurea* grows wild only in mountain areas in Europe. *Gentiana purpurea* was one of the most important exported plants from Norway in the Middle Ages. It was thought to cure everything.

Garden herb? or imported

G. asclepiadea
cultivated in Britain by 1629
pneumonante: native
verna: native
amarella: native
gentianella anglica: native
camprestis: native
cilita: native

- 1 *rdawn*
Rdawn
rdewn
red-heowen
red-dyestuffs

Red: The seed is
a red dye
TH: *Ruta agrestis* = *Peganum harmala* (not vernacular name)

- 2 *oblie tle thegh*
oblie (kl)e dag
oblie tle thegh
o blie tille thegh
o blessed cultivation/cure stalk

- 3 *riwdown*
Riodawn
riwdown
rewe the heowen
rue the dyestuffs

TH: *Wild rue*,
rwe, *rewe*, *pety*
rue, *wode rue* =
Peganum harmala



F48r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

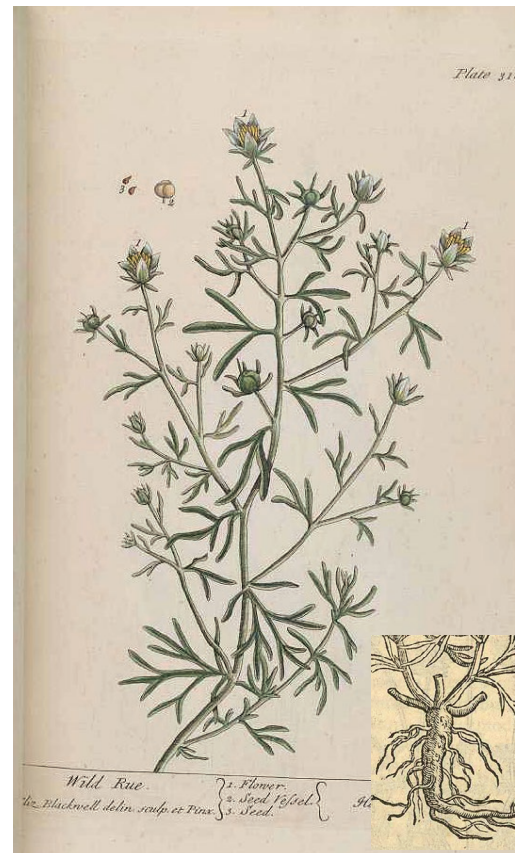


Photo source: Blackwell, E., curious botanical (1737-1739)



Photo source: By MurielBendel - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0

This herb was identified by the sixth word in the first paragraph, **riwthewn**. The first part of it, **riw**, reminds of **rewe**. **Rewe** is a registered name for **wild rue**, ***Peganum harmala***. There are small spaces in the word **riwthewn**. Following these small gaps, the word can be divided into **riw th ewn**. It may be related to **rewe the heowen**, meaning rue the dyestuff. A red dye can be extracted from the seeds of wild rue, or yellow when the seeds are extracted in water. The first name in this folio is **rdewn**. It may be related to **red-heowen**, meaning **red dyestuff**. The illustration matches wild rue quite good. It has white flowers, thin palmate leaves and a taproot with branches.

Garden herb

- 1 *bliddle*
bi lavendule
 be lavender

TH: *Lavande*
Lavandre, *laven-*
dule = *Lavandu-*
la officinalis and
latifolia

- 2 *dride flide*
d ride flide
the ride flithe
 that let rid
 intestinal worm/
 ?flies/flying isects

See f40r French
 lavender with the
 same text

- 4 *etimde Rie*
eitnde rie
itende writhe
 burning incense
 wreath

- 5 *bli(sd)ar lie*
blister lie
bli-ster lief
 holy incense leaf
 or
blister lief
 blister leaf



F48v. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.



Photo source: Bonelli, G., Hortus Romanus juxta Systema Tournefortianum (1772-1793)



Photo source: By S. Rae from Scotland, UK - *Lavandula canariensis*, CC BY 2.0

This herb was identified by some words and phrases that are similar to those in f40r. The herb in f40r is identified as French lavender. The word that is found in both this folio and f40r is *ster*. *Stér* means to **burn incense**. *Ster* is found as the last part of the first word in paragraph two. Another similarity is *ride flithe*, also found in f40r. It may be a variation or an error of *ride flize*, meaning **rid flies/flying insects**. Lavender was burned to get a good smell and to get rid of flying insects. The first word in this page is *liwde*. It is not very far from *lavendule*, a registered name for *Lavandula officinalis* and *latifolia*. This is neither of those lavenders. But the herb illustrated has similarities to the **Canary island lavender, *Lavandula canariensis***. It has bipinnate leaves reminding of ferns. Its branched stalk is green to light brown. It has several racemes with violet flowers. Lavender may form clumps and reproduce by root cuttings. The illustration seems to depict two crossing herbs. But looking closer at it, they are not drawn as separate plants. They are connected. Other similarities between this page and f40r is that French lavender in f40r is called *tioder (tinder)*, while this herb is called *itinde (itende)*. I believe they both have something to do with burning incense as *tinder* means **flammable material** and *itende* means **burning**.

Garden herb

First described by
 Philip Miller in 1768.

1 **rog**
Roz
rog
rove

f49r *Bryonia alba or dioica / White or red bryony, snakeweed*

Swedish: *röd hundrove* =
Bryonica dioica
French: *Rave de serpent* =
Bryonica dioica

2 **rog**
Ror Roz
rar-rog
rar/rear-rove
lightcolored/small/
raise-rove

3 **rog**
Rorblor
rar-belwr
rar/rear-bel-wr
light-colored bell
wort

Light-colored =
white bryony?

4 **rog**
bodawn
bodewn
bodewyn

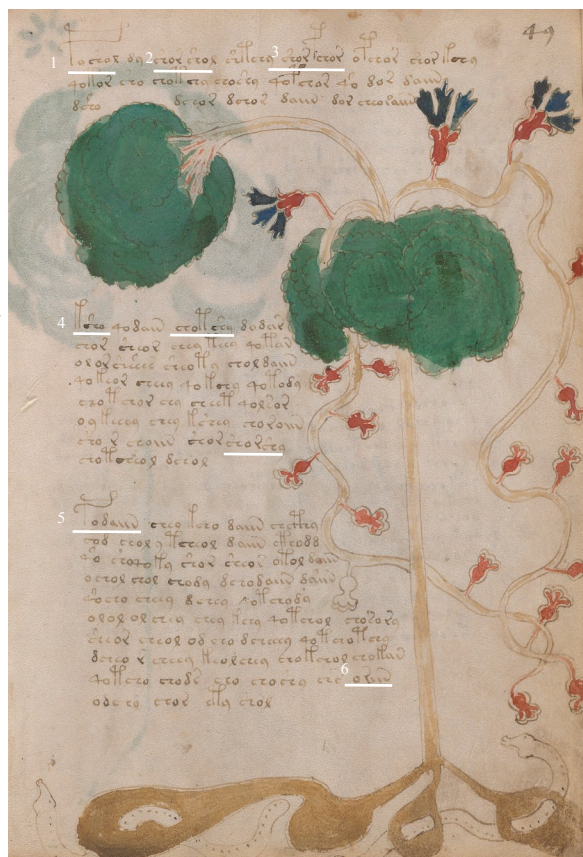
TH: *bodewyn* =
?Convolvulus
arvensis

See f17vv rough
bindweed, called
beidewyn.

See f54v,
field bindweed,
called
belewn.

5 **orwn**
wrwm
worm
worm

See the worm in
the root, and the
modern name
snakeweed.



F49r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

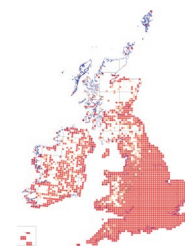


Photo source: Bryonia alba/dioica. Fuchs, L., New Kreütterbuch (1543)
New Kreütterbuch (Fuchs)



Photo source: Bryonia dioica. By H. Zell - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0.

This herb is most likely the climbing *snakeweed*, *Bryonia dioica* or *alba*. I found no registered names for snakeweed (MEC/TH), but first name in the third paragraph is *bodewyn*. *Bodewyn* is a registered name for bindweed. I do not believe this is a bindweed, but snake-weed may have been associated with it as they both are climbing weeds. There are two bindweeds in the manuscript. The first is rough bindweed, in f17v, called *beidewn* (*beide-vine*). the second is field bindweed, in f54v, called *belewn* (*belle-vine*). I conclude with snake-weed in this page because it matches the illustration well. Sankeweed has small white or blue flowers, and red berries. The root is thick. In 1792, the botanist Carl Fredrik Hoffberg wrote enthusiastically about Bryonia alba: “A deep hole cut into the roots after they had been cut off evenly at ground level was filled with juice after a day or so. This juice cured oedema and was employed in the treatment of intestinal worms, convulsions and headaches.” Both the modern English name snakeweed, and the botanist’s story makes sense with the illustration. *Rogh* is the first name of this plant. There are related name for snakeweed in Sweedish, *röd hundrova*, and in French, *Rave de serpent* (*Snake Root*).



Well-drained, often base-rich, soils in hedgerows, scrub,
woodland borders, and on rough and waste ground

1 202 209
Ror Ro3
rar rogh
rar rogh
?rare hairy

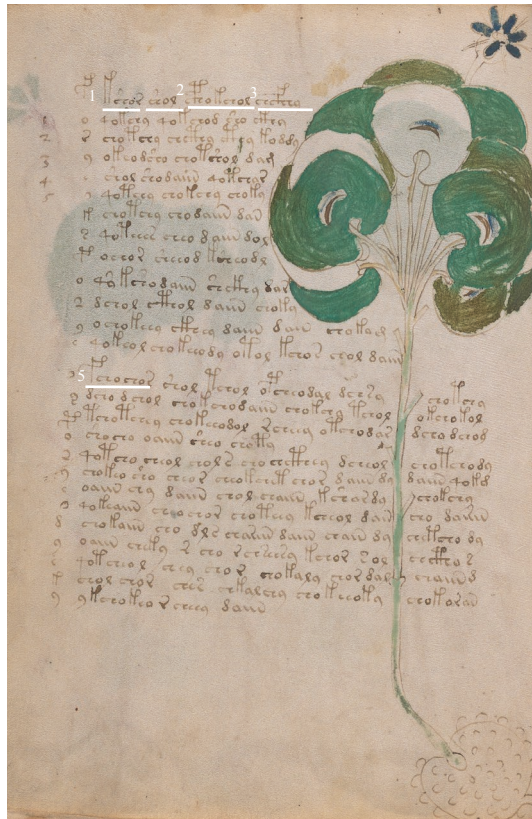
2 20 209
(bl) o tlo3
blo tilog
blo ?tilage
dark ?cultivation

MEC: Til = to
cultivate

3 20 209
li(fl)e
liflie
lifli
vivid/lifegiving

4 20 209
flolor
flolor
flod láver
"flo" medicinal
wash

TH: Flos
siriacus
= Marsh mal-
low, Althaea
officinalis



F49v. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.



Photo source: Alcea rosea. Köhler's Medizinal-Pflanzen, 1897.



Photo source: Alcea rosea. Buendia22 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0

This herb was identified by the name *liflie*. I found a word close to *lif* in *eorme-leaf* registered for high mallow, *Malva sylvestris*. I do not believe this is the right interpretation of *liflie*. *Liflie* may be related to *lifli* meaning *vivid* or *lif giving*. I do believe the herb in this folio is some kind of **Malva** or **Alcea**. They have similar flowers and long stalks with rounded leaves. A single stalks grow from the root. The seeds look like the illustrated root. As they reproduce freely from seeds, it makes sense that it is illustrated like this. It is interesting that the leaves are cut on the lower stalk. This is done on some Malvaeas to prevent them from being attacked by the rust disease *Puccinia malvacearum*. Of the plants that match the illustration, *Puccinia malvacearum* attacks only **Alcea** and **Malva**. I believe, as the plant is cut, and it is called **blo**, meaning *dark*, that it may be a dark cultivated *Alcea rosea*. It is also interesting that there is a riddle to the left in this folio. First it is written a column of numbers: 1,2,3,4,5. Then a column of letters, one for each line in the text: 202 209 20 209 20 209 20 209. It can be divided to *f arei o t siporei - a siporei o th eite*. I interpret this as *fay arai of té siphre - a siphre of the eite*. it can be translated word by word to *add the sequence of this number - a number of the wealth* (MEC). If adding 1+2+3+4+5 one gets 15. I do not know how it was in the Middle Ages, but 15 is today considered an extremely lucky number, associated with wealth.

Alcea roesa =
Garden herb
Malva sylvestris
= archeophyte in
Great Britain:
roadsides,
waste ground
and field-bor-
ders, often near
settlements,
occasionally on
sea-cliffs.

1 𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹

Rior

rior

?ri/wri-wr

ache/prophesy

wort

2 𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹

oztaur

ohteur

houde-wr

TH: houderu-
gresse, selfhede
= Pimpinella
Sanguisorba/
Sanguisorba
officinalis

3 𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹 𐌹𐌺𐌹𐌺𐌹

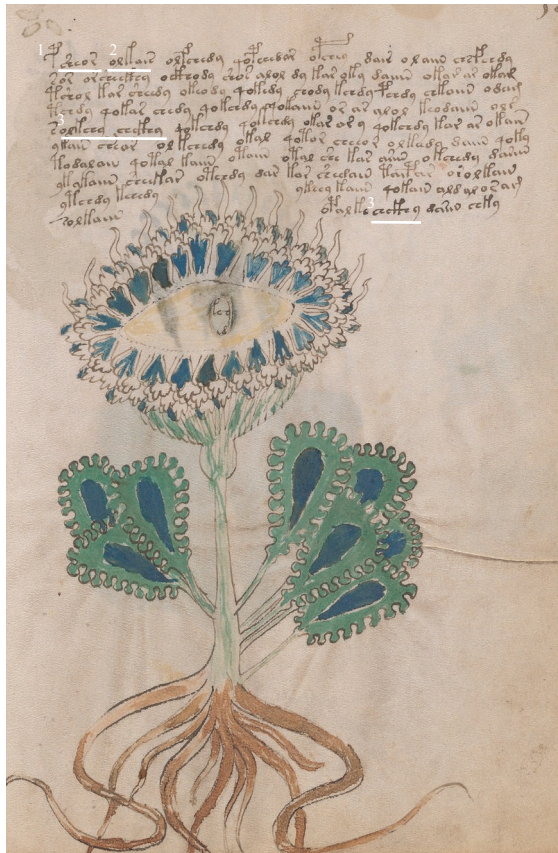
oztle l(tl)e

ohlle ltle

houde-lef ltle

MEC: Little burnet
= Sanguisorba
minor

It is uncertain if
little is part of the
name



F50r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

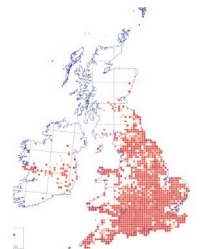


Photo source: Sanguisorba minor. Curtis, W., Flora Londinensis (1775-1798)



Photo source: Sanguisorba minor. Stefan.Iefnaer - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

The first name in this page is **rior**. I first interpreted it to be related to **wre-or**, meaning **wort gold** (MEC). It led me to the herb Sanguisorba registered as **gold-wort** (TH). I do not hold on to that interpretation, but I hold on to Sanguisorba as there is a second name, **ohteur**, also leading to Sanguisorba. The first part of **ohteur** may be related to **houde** or **hede** in the registered name **houdergresse** and **selfhede**. They were used for Pimpinella Sanguisorba and Sanguisorba officinalis (TH). The word **ltle** is also found several places in the text. **Little** is a part of the registered name **little burnet**, used for Sanguisorba minor (TH). But **little** is not necessarily a part of the plant name. **Little** is also a verb meaning **to reduce**. Based on the names and the illustration I believe this is a kind of **burnet**, **Sanguisorba**. The flower of the herb in this folio has been drawn in the same way as the flower of f40v, with similar shapes as in the upper left corner of the rosette map. The leaves are a bit strange and the stalk should have been red. The root matches very well.



S. officinalis (map): A variety of soil types, generally infertile, well-drained soils, including weakly saline and weakly alkaline or acidic soil.

S. minor: almost confined to dry, infertile grassland on chalk and limestone, but also occurring on boulder-clay.

¹ *klei do htar*
kle do htar
klei tho hther
calei tho hether
caley the Lathyrus

Modern english:
calei pea =
Lathyrus
hirsutus

TH: *Hether*,
hathere =
Lathyrus



F50v. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

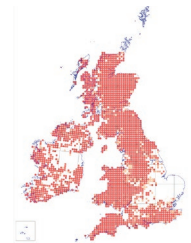


Photo source: Lathyrus Linifolius. Smith, J.E., English botany, or coloured figures of British plants, ed. 3, vol. 3 (1864).



Photo source: Lathyrus linifolius. By Meneerke bloem - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0.

This illustration is interesting because it shows how the illustrator works. It looks like one large blue flower, but there are several pedicels leading up to the flower. Because of this I believe the large shape is made up by several smaller flowers. The first name in this folio is **klei tho hther**. This name can be related to **calei the hether**. **Hether** is a registered name for Lathyrus, and **calei** is a modern English name for Lathyrus hirsutus. I believe this is some kind of vetchling. Good candidates are **Caley pea**, **Lathyrus hirsutus** or **heath pea**, **Lathyrus linifolius**. The illustration does not really have the leaves of a vetchling, but the flowers have similarities.



L. hirsutus: Thickets, disturbed waste grounds, roadsides, fields, savannahs, creekbeds, wet meadows, and along railroad tracks.

1 ƧƧoɣɔɔɔɔ
kRozdle
k-rogdle
K-rugh*-lef
K-prickly-leaf

*See f11v: d is
put between g
and l so bugle is
written bugdle

MEC: rogh=
prickly,
sharp-pointed

1 ƧƧoɔɔɔɔ ƧƧoɔɔ
klodeawn obmde
glodewn opmde
glod-heuen
o pé-mede
gold-color
a "pe"-meadow



F51r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

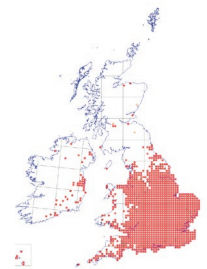


Photo source: Kerner, J.S., Abbildungen aller ökonomischen Pflanzen (1786-1798)



Photo source: By Jeantosti, CC BY-SA 3.0,

This is one of the last herbs I figured out. When identified, it becomes obvious what the strange margin drawn in the middle of the leaf is. It is the characteristic spines along the middle vein of the leaves of **prickly lettuce**, *Lactuca serriola*. The specific shape of the leaves also makes sense when comparing them to prickly lettuce. The first name ends with ɔɔ (le). ɔɔ (le) is found as a prefix in many plant names, and I believe it is related to *lef*, meaning *leaf*. I believe that the important part of plants with *leaf* in their name are the leaves. For example, is another lettuce called *sewn-le* in f22v. The flowers in the illustration in this page have the appearance of a yellow ray flowers. The lettuces have yellow ray flowers. Prickly lettuce has the right shape of the leaves. It has a spine along the middle vein. The yellow flowers are topping large oblong bracts. It also has a tap root and one stalk rising from it. The first name in this folio is *roghdle*. Associated with prickly lettuce it makes sense. It may be related *rogh-lef*, meaning *prickly leaf* (MEC). The *d* in *roghdle*, can have the same dialectical cause as the *d* in *bugdle*, a name for *bugle*. See f11v.



Roadsides, waste ground, gravel-pits and sea walls, newly turned soil. Occasionally in semi-natural habitats, such as shingle banks and sand dunes.

1 𐌹𐌵𐌳𐌹

Rode

rude

rude/rode

TH: *Rude, rode*= ?*Symphytum**tuberosum*

3 𐌹𐌵𐌳𐌹𐌵𐌹

Rodawn

rodewn

rude/rode-wan

"rude"-whitish/

lusterless

TH: *Rude, rode*= ?*Symphytum**tuberosum*

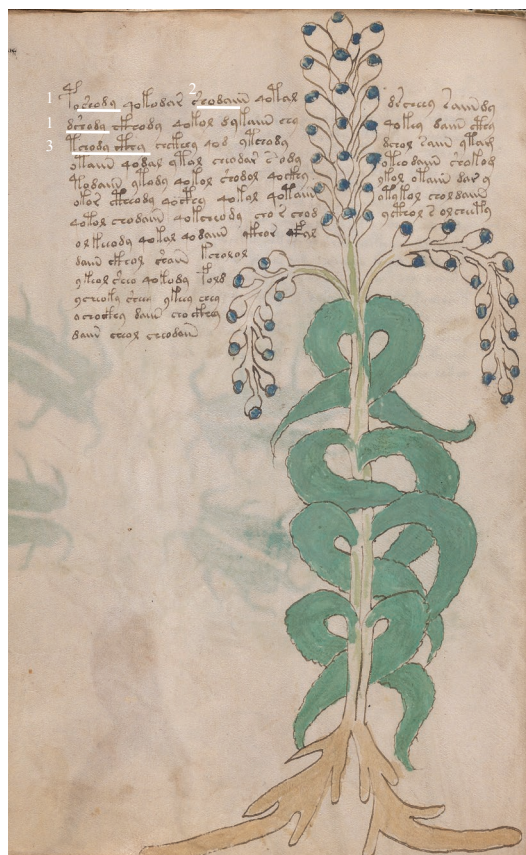
3 𐌹𐌵𐌳𐌹𐌵𐌹 𐌹𐌵𐌳𐌹

klode (kl)e

klode kle

glode clé

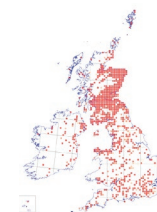
gold claw/?root

TH: *qwhite golde*= ?*Symphytum**tuberosum*


f50v. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Photo source: *Symphytum tuberosum*. English botany. Sowerby, James; Boswell, John T. (John Thomas); Lankester, Mrs. (Phebe); Sowerby, James de Carle; Salter, John William; Sowerby, John E. (John Edward) (1867).Photo source: *Symphytum tuberosum*. Benjamin Zwittnig - CC BY 2.5


The name of this herb is **rude** or **rude**. **Rode** and **rude** are names associated with **tuberous comfrey**, **Symphytum Tuberosum** (TH). It matches the illustration. It has numerous small white bells. The leaves are lanceolate. From the tuberous root grows one single stalk. The identification is further confirmed by the name **klode kle**. I believe it is related to **glod clé** and means **gold claw (?root)**. **Gold** is found in the registered name *qwhite golde*. it is associated with tuberous comfrey (TH). A vernacular common name for tuberous comfrey is 'knitbone'. it reveals the healing role that it had in botanical medicine throughout the ages. In these traditional cures the leaves were used to speed up the healing of broken bones. I wonder if this is reflected in the way the leaves are drawn in the illustration. They are forming loops.

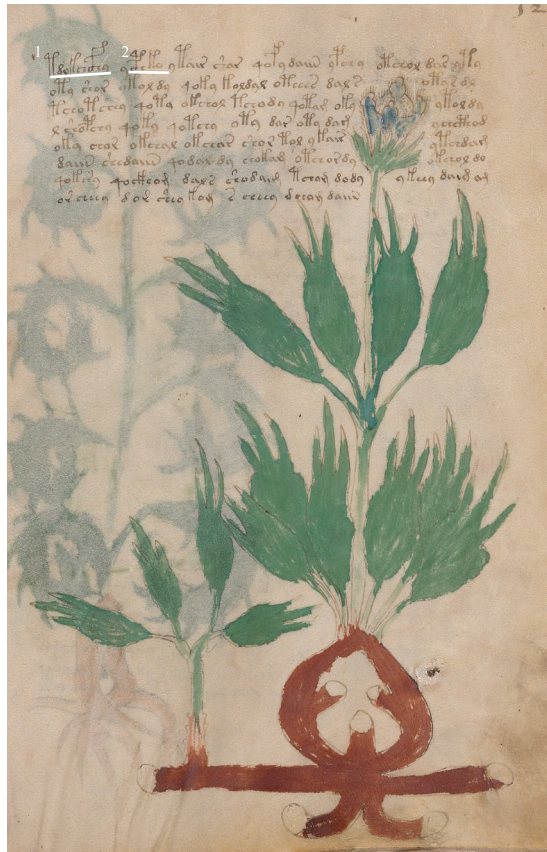


Damp woodland, ditches, stream and river banks, where it occurs in both shaded and open situations. grows well in heavy clay soil.

1 
 kdotl(fl)e
kthutlfle
k-thote/dút-lifli
 k spring/delight
 life-giving

MEC:
lifli = life-giving,
 vigorous,
 vivid
theote = spring,
 torrent
dút = delight

2 
 e(bl)to
ebtto
 ?é-bel-to
 ?water-bell-toe



F52r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

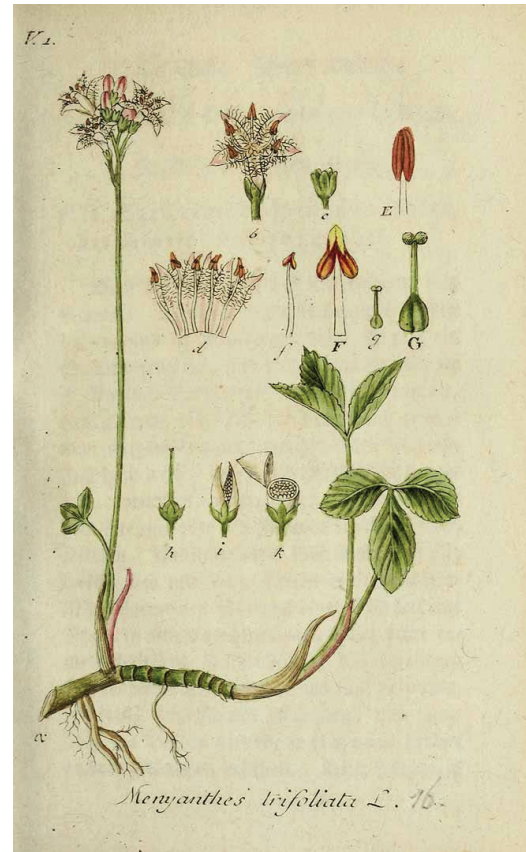


Photo source: Sturm, J., Sturm, J.W., Deutschlands flora (1798-1855)



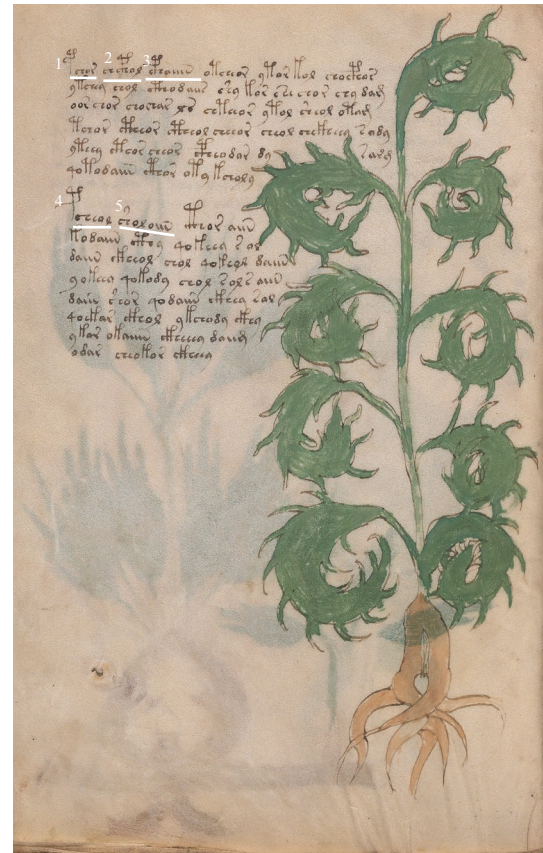
Photo source: Uoaei1 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0

This identification is based on morphology. The names give sense after I found a candidat that matched. The candidate is **bogbean, *Menyanthes trifoliata***. Bogbean is strangely not registered. In some parts of Great Britain been one of the most prized herbs of all in folk medicine. The most peculiar about this illustration is the hairy petals of the flower. There are not many flowers with this characteristic. It matches the fringy petals of bogbean. Bogbean's leaves are divided in three. The root is thick and long and several plants grow from it. The flower of bogbean is often pink on the outside and whitish on the inside. The pink color may have been interpreted light violet, resulting in a shade of blue in the illustration. The first name **kthotlfle**, may be interpreted **k-thote-lifli**. It can be translated to **k spring life-giving**. It's last part, **lfle**, is also used in f49v, there spelled **lfli**. In f49v the herb is identified as Alcea or Malva. Bogbean has been a substitute for hops in beer (FM). The leaves are intensely bitter. It has been used to revitalize the system and resolve digestive problems, in addition to treat numerous health problems (FM).



Shallow edge of lakes, pools or slow-flowing rivers, or in swamps, flushes or dune-slacks

f52v *Peucedanum officinale* / ?Hog's fennel



F52v. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

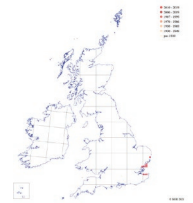


Photo source: *Peucedanum officinale*. Bonelli, G., *Hortus Romanus juxta*, vol. 5, *Systema Tournefortianum* (1772-1793).



Photo source: *Peucedanum officinale*. Salicyna - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0d

This herb was identified by the third word in the first paragraph, **plewum**. I believe it is related to **pile-wurm** and means **arrow worm** (MEC). There is a plant registered with the name **worm-seed**. It is **hog's fennel**, **peucedanum officinale** (TH). It matches the illustration in the way that it has a bushy, radiating mass of long-petioled leaves. **Pl** is also found in the first name in this folio, **plwr**. It can be related to **pil-wr** and mean **arrow wort** (MEC). The word **pil** may refer to the shape of the long thin leaves. The second name is **lplog**. I believe **pl** is found in this name too. It may be divided to **l-pl-og**, and be read **elle-pil-hog**. **Elle** is found in the name of *daucus carota* in f96r. Hog's fennel is in the carrot family. **Hog** is found in the modern English name **hog's fennel**. **Hog** also means **swine** (MEC) and a registered name for hog's fennel is **swynysfynel**. The fourth name is **pliog**, another variation of **pil-hog**. The fifth name is **roghown**. This name can be read **rogh-hound**. It means **hairy hound**. **Hound** is also found in registered names for hog's fennel; **dog-fenel**, **hundesfenel**, **?hundesdil** (TH). Hog's fennel is a rare plant today, occurring only in certain localities in the counties of Essex and Kent. It was formerly also found near the town of Shoreham-by-Sea in the county of West Sussex.



Rough grassland, clayey banks and cliffs near the sea.

- 1 𐌲𐍅𐍋𐍇𐍂𐍄𐍃𐍆𐍃𐍈𐍃
 todo(rd) lo(kl)ode
 tothwrt lo klode
 tooth-wrt lo ?clóde
 tooth-wort indeed
 clawed

- 2 o ʔɰ soʔ ɬaʋ
 o ke doʔ daʋn
 a ke dag/thogh
 theun
 a kei dagge/theve-
 thorn
 a ?Christ/key
 spiky/bush thorn

TH: *Theve-thorn*
+ MEC: (SWM)
theove- = The
Holly
MEC: *Dagge*:
Ornamental points
or incisions on the
edges of a garment
+ A dagger, or
some other pointed
implement.



F53r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

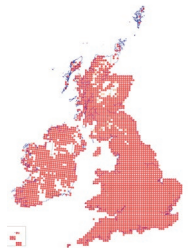


Photo source: *Ilex aquifolium*. Miller, P., Figures of the most beautiful, useful and uncommon plants, described in the gardeners' dictionary, Vol1 (1755-1760).



Photo source: *Ilex aquifolium*, H. Zell - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

This was one of the first herbs I identified. It was the word *dagh-theun* that caught my attention. *Daghe* means *dagger or some other pointed implement* (MEC). The leaves of the herb illustrated is indeed pointed. *Theun* may be related to *thorn*. When I found the herb name *theve-thorn* registered for *the holy, Ilex aquifolium* it made sense. *Theve* means *bush* (MEC), and it is possible that *soz* is a form of *theve*, not *daghe* as I first thought. The sound of *gh* is close to *v*, as it is the same sound that is pronounced *f* in for example modern English *tough*. The first words in the folio says *tothwrt lo klode*. I believe this means *tooth wort indeed clawed*. The holy is common in much of England, but its recorded use in folk medicine is very largely confined to central and southern England, and to one affliction only: chilblains (FM).



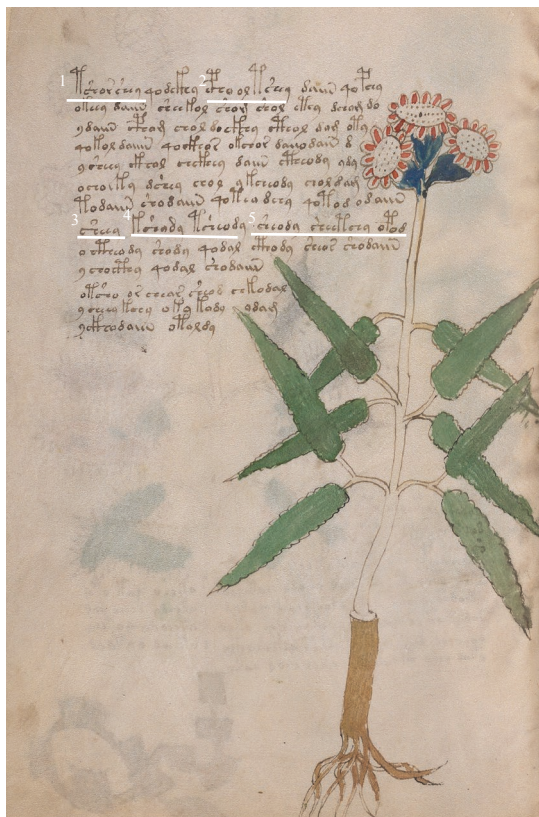
Found in most well-drained soils in scrub, hedges and woodland where it is often the dominant under-storey shrub.

- 1 **ᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱ**
kRorRie
k-rar-rie
K-rar-writhe
K seldom/light
colored wreath
- 2 **ᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱ**
(bl)o o3kRie
blo ohk-rie
blod hawk-writhe
blood/blue hawk-
wreath
- 3 **ᚱᚱᚱᚱ**
Rme
rne
ringe
ring
- 4 **ᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱ ᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱ**
tRade kRiode
te rede k-riode
te rede K-reade
this red K red
- redeflower, rode,
ruddis = Calendula
officinalis
- 5 **ᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱ ᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱ**
ᚱᚱᚱᚱ
Riode Rmkle obod
riode rnkle obod
red ring/ring-lef
o bod
red ring leaf of
"bod"

TH: *Wringinwort*,
bothel, *bothon*,
elfringewort, *rod*
= *Bellis perennis*,
Symphytum officinalis, *Chrysanthemum leucantemum/segetum*, ?*Ajuga reptans*, ?*Symphytum tuberosum*
TH: *Bodewen* =
corn marigold

Norwegian:
ringblomst = Calendula

f53v ?*Pilosella aurantiaca* or some kind of *calendula* / ?orange hawk bit or some kind of marigold



F53v. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.



Photo source: Calandulas. Gottorfer Codex (1649-1659)



Photo Source: *Pilosella aurantiaca*. SOeder, G.C., *Flora Danica* (1761-1861)

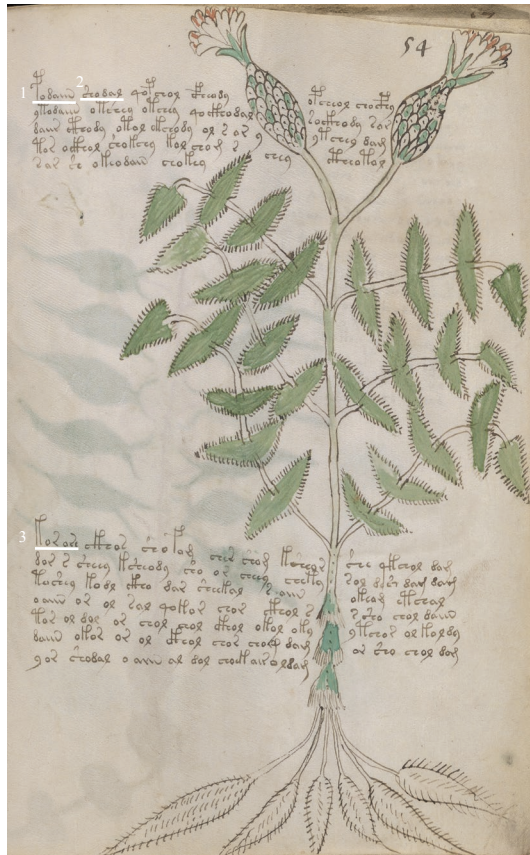
The flowers of this herb look like *Pilosella aurantiaca*, except from the placement of the leaves and the missing hairs. The three flowers placed close at the top match well. It also has dark-colored bracts and the shape of the leaves are similar. The root is also not bad, except that it probably would have been drawn as a runner if this is *Pilosella aurantiaca*. There are also some names leading to *Pilosella* like **ohk-rie**, that can be interpreted **hawk-writhe**. It means **hawk wreath**. Some pilosellas are called hawkweed in modern English. There are some characteristics of the illustration that do not match *Pilosella aurantiaca*. As mentioned, the root is a runner. In addition the leaves should have been drawn as a rosette. The names **rne** and **riode rnkle obod** is interesting. I interpret them to be related to **ringe** and **ring-lef of bod**. It means **ring** and **red ring-leaf of bod** (MEC). There are some registered names that can be associated with this. The ray flowers *Bellis perennis* and *Chrysanthemum leucantemum/segetum* are registered under the same names: **Wringingwort**, **elfringewort**, **bothel** and **rod**. Corn marigold was called **bodewen**, in f46v it is called **bode**. The illustration matches neither of them. There is a *Calendula* in f8v, it is called **beidewen**. There are different kinds of orange *Calendulas* that match this illustration. *Calendula officinalis* is registered called **rode**, **ruddis** and **redeflower**. In name four and five this herb is called **rede** and **riode**.

1 𐌺𐌴𐌹𐌸𐌰𐌿𐌸
bodawn
podewn
podyll-wen
“podyll”-lump

TH: *podyll* =
Cirsium ssp.

2 𐌺𐌴𐌹𐌸𐌰𐌿𐌸
Rodaz
rotheh
rod-theh
red-stalk

3 𐌺𐌴𐌹𐌸𐌰𐌿𐌸
tor ori
tor wri
tor(n)-wre
thorn-?wort



F54r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

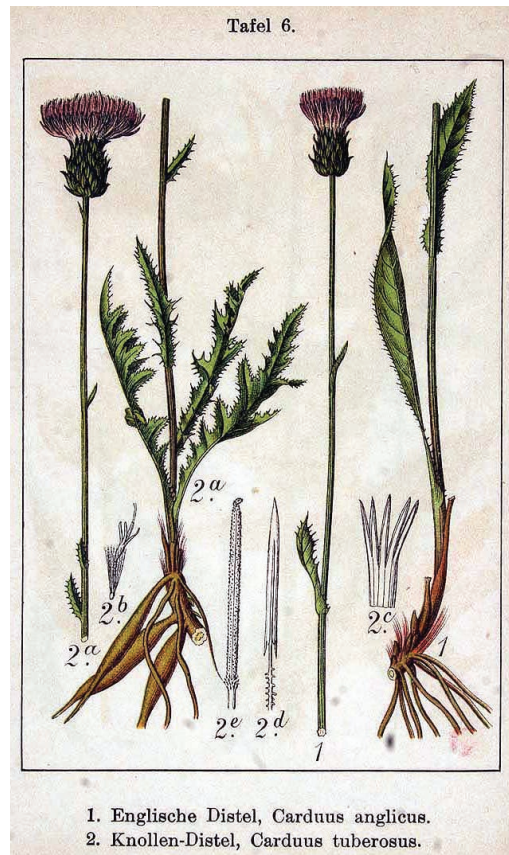


Photo source: Sturm, J., Krause, E.H.L., Lutz, K.G., Flora von Deutschland in Abbildungen nach der Natur, Zweite auflage (1900-1907)



Dr Mary Gillham Archive Project



Photo source: https://www.edimentals.com/blog/?page_id=2461

This herb was one of the last herbs identified. Its first name *bodewn* misled me to think it was a ray flower. But the large scaly bracts, the leaves and the root did not really match any of them. It was finally identified by analyzing the illustration. The leaves in the illustration are hairy, jagged or thorned. The root full of tubers and it is a brush-like shape at the bottom of the stalk. It is one single stalk growing from the root. The bract seem to be thorned too as there is a dot in each bract. The color of the flower is reddish and white underneath. There are numerous herbs with scaly bracts, like *Centaurea*, *Carduus* and *Cynaria*. The only one I found with a tuberous root was **tuberous thistle**, *Cirsium tuberosum* (*Carduus tuberosus*). It matches very well with the analysis above and it matches also the name. A registered name for *Cirsium* ssp. is *poddyl* (TH). The first part of name I thought was *bodewn*, can be read *pod*. The first name of this herb will then be *pode-wen*. The last part of the name, *wen*, can mean lump (MEC). Tuberous thistle has today two main areas in Wiltshire and Glamorgan.



Damp grassland on calcareous soils old chalk and limestone grassland, often on slopes with a N. or N.W. aspect, and sometimes occurring in rank swards.

1 **blwodar**
bliodar
bliwder
bel-ew-dère
bell-ivy-dear
or
belewe-dère
Belly-harm

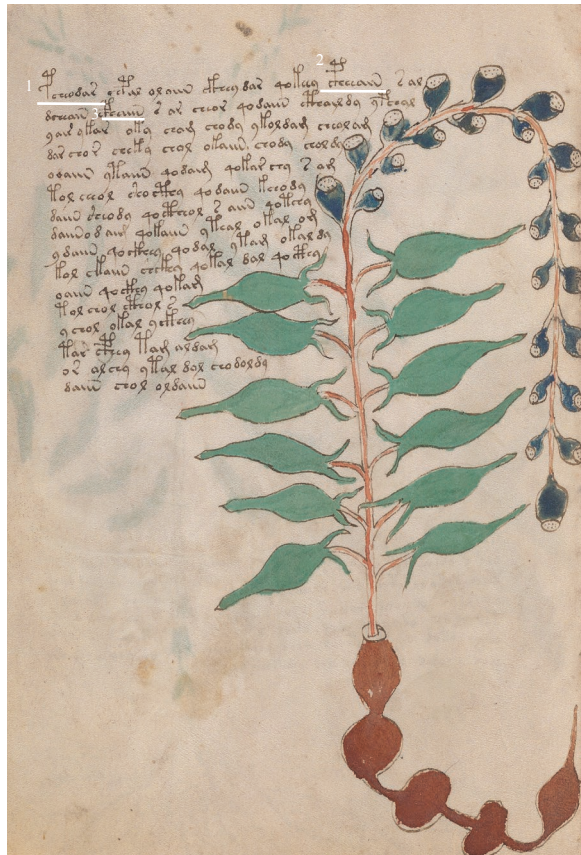
TH: anglice ivy
= *Convolvulus*
arvensis

2 **blmaun**
(bl)maun
belmeun
bel-mórn
or
bell món
bell-morning
or
bell-devil

Modern english
names:
perennial
morning glory,
small-flowered
morning glory

3 **blawn**
(bl)awn
belewn
bele-wyn
bell-vine

TH: *bodwyn*,
?wodewynd,
wethewynde,
erthwynd =
Convolvulus
arvensis



F54v. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.



Photo source: Dioscorides, P., *De materia medica* (Codex Vindobonensis), 512, *De materia medica* (Codex Vindobonensis)

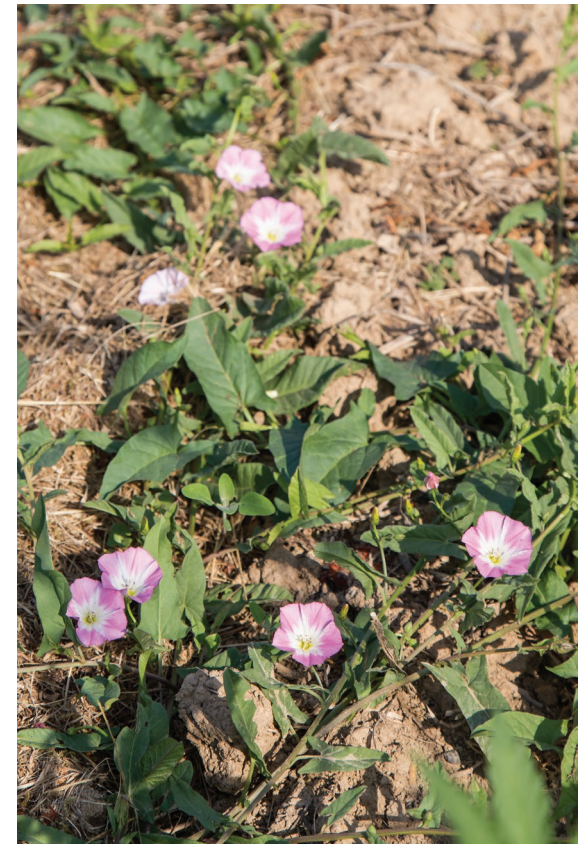
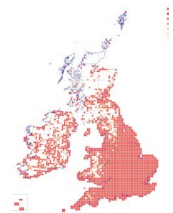


Photo source: *Convolvulus arvensis*. By Maja Dumat from Deutschland (Germany) , CC BY 2.0

This herb was identified by the leaves in addition to the first part, **bl**, in the name **bliwder**. I believe **bl** is a syncope of **bell**, and it fits with the bell-shaped flowers in the drawing. There is an herb with bell flowers and spear-shaped leaves. It occasionally has a reddish stem and the root is bulbed. It is **field bindweed**, ***Convolvulus arvensis***. The second part of the first name is **iw**. **Iw** is close to **ew**, a word for **ivy** (MEC). Field bindweed was called **anglice ivy** (TH). Field bindweed was also called **bodwyn** and **erthewynd**. **Wyn** means **vine**. **Wyn** is also found in another name in this text, **blewn**. It can be translated to **belle-wyn**, meaning **bell-vine**. The color of the flowers is blue and white in the illustration. The pink color may have ended up as blue in the illustration. Or, it may be a cultivar. The color looks like that of *Convolvulus tricolor*, though the leaves of *C. tricolor* are different than in the illustration.



Lawns, gardens, fields,
clay banks, areas along
roadsides. Primarily in
disturbed areas

¹ 𐌱𐌴𐌸𐌰𐌶
bodawn
podewn
pod-?heuen

TH: *podyll* =
Delphinium
consolida

² 𐌱𐌴𐌸𐌰𐌶
klor
klithwr
?k-lith-wr
?



F55r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.



Photo source: Miller, P., Figures of the most beautiful, useful and uncommon plants, described in the gardeners' dictionary (1755-1760)



Photo source: By Palickap - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0

It was hard to identify this herb, as the illustration is quite strange. The first part of the first word *podewn*, may be related to *poddyl*, in the same way as it did in f54r. *Podyll* is registered for both *Circium* and for *Delphinium consolida* (TH). In this folio the illustration matches *Delphinium* quite well. The large red lump under the flower can be a way to simplify a raceme of flowers. This kind of simplification is also found in f14r. *Delphinium* has deeply lobed leaves. The plant is topped with a raceme of numerous flowers, varying in color from purple and blue, to red, yellow, or white. There is a *Delphinium* with a matching root, **alpine delphinium**, ***Delphinium elatum***. It has a large bulbed root with several stalks rising from it.

Garden plant

1 *tilmdlthe*
tilmdl(s)d)e
tilmdlste
tille-(error)
with-liste
cultivation-wil-
low-light

2 *oideaun l(tl)e*
oideaun l(tl)e
widun little
widen little
willow little

MEC: *with(e,*
within, chiefly
early: *widen* =
A tree of the
genus *Salix*, a
willow.
TH: *whythe* =
Salix viminalis

3 *otldetaun*
otldetaun
wtldeteun
watel-?(error)
widen
wattle-?willow



F55v. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

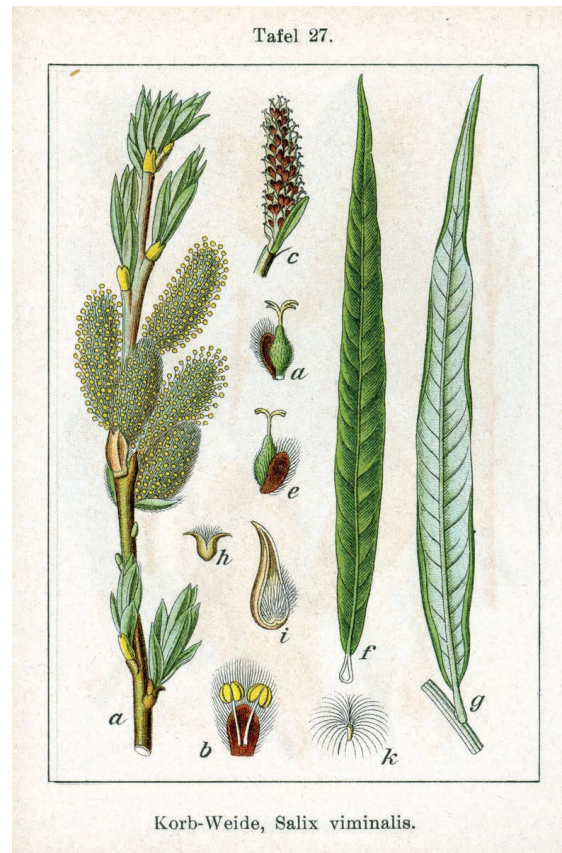


Photo source: *Salix viminalis*. Johann Georg Sturm (Painter: Jacob Sturm) - Fig. from book *Deutschlands Flora in Abbildungen* (1796)



Photo source: *Salix viminalis*. Willow - Own work, CC BY 2.5

The word that led to an identification of this plant is *withleun*. *Whythy*, *with(e withene, within* or *widen* are registered names for **willow**, *Salix*. The illustration matches willow with its brown stalk, lanceolate leaves and a shape that can remind of the catkins. The first name in the second paragraph, *wtlth*, may also be associated with willow. I believe the first part, *wtl*, is related to *watel*. It means *wattle*. Willow was cultivated to be used as wattle. The word *wtlth*, may be divided into *wtl-lth*. A variation of *lth* is also found in the last part of the first name in the folio, *tilmdlthe*. What *lth* and *lthe* means is uncertain. It may be *lith*, meaning *light*, and describe the color. The first name *tilmdlthe*, may be interpreted *tille-mith-lithe*. *Mith* may be an error for *with* (willow), and the word may mean *cultivation willow light(colored)*.

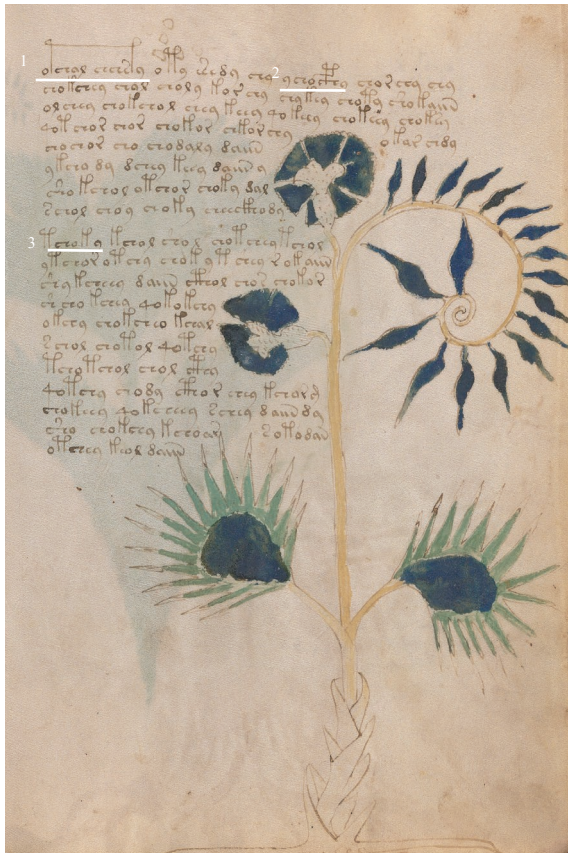
Garden plant

¹ ὀκλαῖς ἰλσκει
oklaz ilske
okleh ilskei
ok legh//lech
lilis-kei
and field/
opening in
woods//medicin
lili's key

MEC: *Lili* = The
plant of the Ma-
donna lily (*Lil-
ium candidum*);
other species of
the genus *Lilium*,
certain species
of the genus *Iris*,
plants mentioned
in the Bible.

² ἑλοβλε
elo(bl)e
eiloble
heile bele
health/good for-
tune/?healing bell

³ κλωτε
klote
klote
k-lüte
k bowed



F56r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

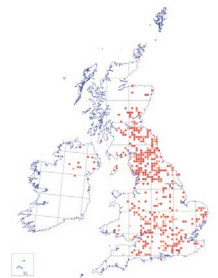


Photo source: *Lilium martagon*. Illustration by Fitch, Henry James Elwes A Monograph of the Genus *Lilium*, Tab. 23, (1877).



Photo source: *Lilium martagon*. Robert Flogaus-Faust - Own work, CC BY 4.0

Name number one in this folio is **okleh ilskei**. The first part of the second word is *ilsk*. It is likely related to *lilis* and means *lilies* or *lily's* (MEC). The whole name **okleh ilskei**, can be related to *ok legh lilis-kei*, meaning *moreover field lili's key* (MEC). *Ok* were often used to start sentences, meaning *moreover*. The illustration shows a white root: it gives rise to one single stalk with many large flowers. The leaves are placed differently. They are not drawn as a whorl growing directly from the stalk, but a whorl placed on leaf stalks.



Deciduous woods, scrub and mountain pasture, especially on limestone. usually occurring in small clumps near woodland edges or in coppiced woodland.

1 *liok ro3 lie*
liok Ro3 lie
liok rogh lie
lich rogh lye/lief

?rough = rough
land

MEC: Rough =
hairy.

TH: Lichwale, ly-
ewal = *Lithosper-*
mum officinale

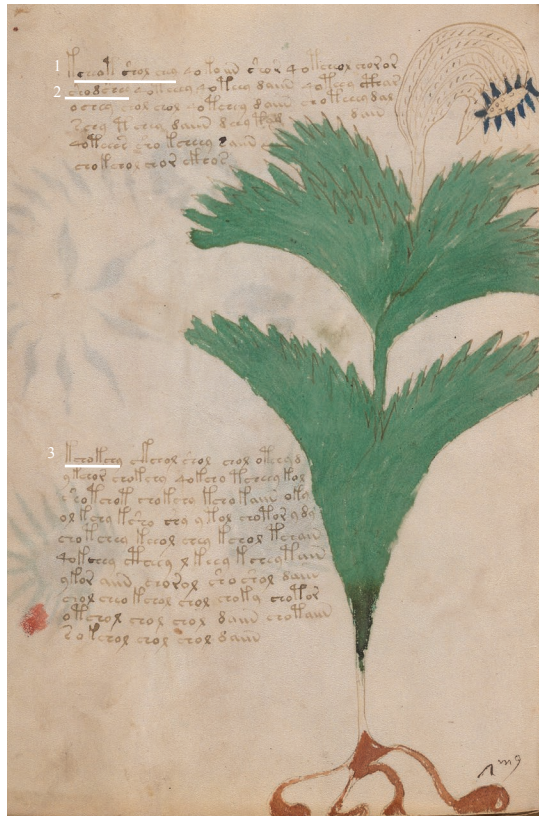
2 *rod rie*
Rod Rie
rod rie
rod writhe
red wreath

MEC: Réde-wale
= *Lithospermum*
arvense

A purple dye is
obtained from
the roots

3 *lotle*
lotle
lotle
lityll

TH: *lityll wale*,
lyewal, *lythewal*,
lyghwal =
Lithospermum
officinale



F56v. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

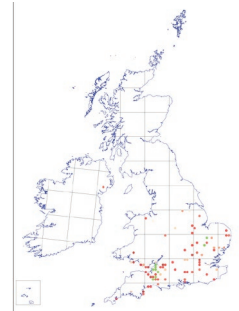


Photo source: Smith, J.E., English botany, or coloured figures of British plants, ed. 3 [B] [J.E. Sowerby et al] (1863-1899)



Photo source: By Benjamin Zwiitnig - http://www2.arnes.si/~bzwiit/flora/buglossoides_purpureocaerulea.html, CC BY 2.5

The first name in this folio is **liok rogh lie**. I believe **liok** is related **lich** and **lye** found in the names **lichwale**, **lyghwal** and **lyewal**. They are registered names for common gromwell, *Lithospermum officinale* (TH). The name starting the second paragraph is also close to a registered name for common gromwell, **lityll**. The Voynich name is **lotle**. The petals in the illustration are blue, it does not match the white petals of common gromwell. It may rather be **purple gromwell**, ***Lithospermum purpureacoeruleum***. The illustration has short strokes on the sepals. It fits with the hairy white sepals of gromwell. The flower is bended downwards in the same way as the flower of gromwell does. The leaves are sharp pointed. In the illustration they are drawn like large toothed shapes, maybe to express it as a bushy plant.



Chalk and limestone districts in two distinct habitats. Inland, it grows in woodland edges and rides, and on lanesides and banks in partial shade. On the coast, it is found amongst naturally dwarfed, open scrub on slumped cliffs, slopes and crags. Garden escape on roadsides and waste ground

- 1 *ccothecy oðawd*
mo(tl)ie odaun
motlie/natlíe
wdun
motlë/nightli
woden
particplored/noc-
turnal crane's-bill

TH: *Woderove* =
Geranium L. ssp.
esp *robertianum*

Modern English
name: *Odin's*
grace. = *Geranium*
Sylvaticum



F57r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

- 2 *ſſecodag*
kRiodaz
k-riodegh
Chi-reod-egh
Christ-red/rud-
dy-eye

Welsh: *Pig yr*
Aran Rhuddgoch
= *Geranium san-*
guineum
Rhudd = red



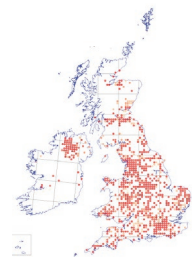
Photo source: *Geranium phaeum*. Flora Batava, Volume 5, illustrator Christiaan Sepp, Jan Kops (1828).



Photo source: *Geranium phaeum*. Robert Flogaus-Faust - Own work, CC BY 4.0

- 3 *ſſec oð*
(bl)id o(rd)
blidwrt
blid wort
beautiful wort

The first name of this herb is ***natlie wdun*** or ***motlie wdun***. *Geranium* spp. are registered with the medieval vernacular name ***woderove*** (TH). The illustration matches *Geranium* very well. If the name is ***natlie***, it may be related to ***nightly***, and ***dusky crane's-bill***, ***Geranium phaeum***, makes sense as a match. It has deep purple flowers with a large style. The leaves are toothed and palmate. The bulbed root forming a clump of many plants is similar too. The herb's second Voynich name is ***k-riodegh***. *Reod* mans ***red*** or ***ruddy*** (MEC). Red is found in the Welsh name of dusky crane's bill, ***Pig yr Aran Rhuddgoch***, where ***ruddgoch*** means ***ruby red***. It is not possible to distinguish whether this herb is *G. phaeum* or *G. sanguineum* from the illustration. Maybe it is even another subspecies like *sylvaticum*, *pratense*, *columbinum* or *maculatum*. It is interesting to note that the second name in this folio is ***wdun***. This name can be associated with *G. Sylvaticum*'s modern English name ***Odin's grace***. In old English the Norse god Odin was called ***Wóden***. It is not far from ***wdun***.



G. phaeum. Roadsides wood-borders; it usually grows close to habitation as a garden escape. moist, fertile soils. Lowland

folio 57v: The first diagram in the manuscript
Folio 58r: Text with stars in the margins
Folio 59-64: Lacking

f65r ?*Anthriscus sylvestris* or *Heracleum sphondylium* / ?Cow parsley or Cow parsnip*Hundekjeks eller Bjørnekjeks*

1 𐌹𐌸𐌹𐌸𐌹𐌸 𐌸𐌹𐌸 𐌹𐌸𐌹𐌸
 okau(rd) da(rd) a3a(rd)
okeurth derd eger
áche-wrt dèred agrest
 Apium-wort exalted
 Cow parsley/parsnip

Alternative reading:
áche-wrt the arth
agrest

MEC: *Áche* = any of
 a group of celery-like
 plant.
 TH: *wyld ache*=
Anthriscus sylvestris
agreste =
Anthriscus sylvestris,
Heracleum sphondyl-
ium

Welsh: *Arth* = bear:
 In Norwegian bear
 (bjørn) is found in the
 name of cow parsley,
Heracleum sphondyl-
ium



F65r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

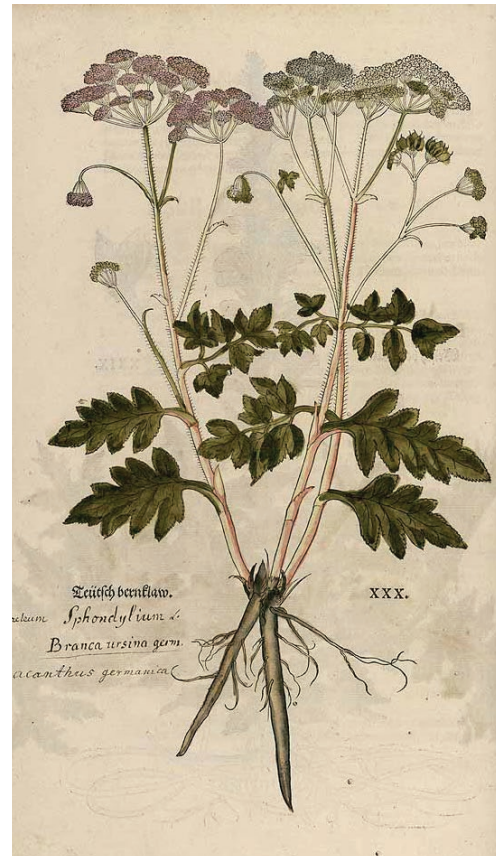
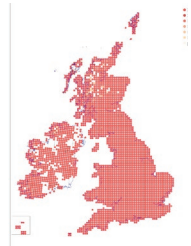


Photo source: *Heracleum sphondylium*. Fuchs, L., *New Kreütterbuch* (1543)

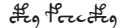


Photo source: *Heracleum sphondylium* . *Anthriscus sylvestris*. By Dalgial - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0


There are only three words describing this plant. My interpretation is **okeurt derth eger**. It can be related to *áche-wurt derth agrest* and means **Apium-wort exalted/famine cow parsly/parsnip** (MEC). *Agreste* is a name registered for both **cow parsley** *Anthriscus sylvatica*, **and cow parsnip**, *Heracleum sphondylium*. *Áche* is a name registered for any of a group of Apium plants. The illustration has a white umbellifer. The leaves are deeply loved and toothed. The root has tubers. I believe it matches cow parsnip best. But it is not possible to distinguish cow parsley and cow parsnip for sure from the illustration. Both plants are edible, but the cow parsley is easy to confuse with other species of the Apiaceae family, such as the deadly poison hemlock, hemlock water-dropwort and fool's parsley.



Anywhere, and is mostly found growing in damp ditches and hedgerows, along riversides, in open woodland, and in meadows and rough grassland

1 
 (bl)e flí(fí)e
blé flíflé
 blé flíflé
 Dark fly(?) - flea

TH/MEC: *fle(a)-*
wort = *Plantago*
indica

2 
 komde okar Ride
komde/konde
oker ride
 ?*co-mede/cunnede*
aker wride
 ?*craw or cow/*
 'sought for'
 meadow field
 clump



F65v. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.



Photo source: Dietrich, A.G., Flora regni Borussici (1832-1844)



Photo source: *Plantago indica*. By Le.Loup.Gris - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0 and By Stefan.Iefnaer - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0

This was the first herb I identified by name. Its first name is **blé flíflé**. The first word **blé** means **dark** (MEC). The last part, **flé**, is related to **flea** in the registered name **fleawort**. It was used for **dark psyllium, Plantago indica**. The illustration matches dark psyllium very well. It has long leaves shaped as needles. They carry many green lumps with "fleas". From the hairy tap root grows several branched stalks. The illustration has a large blue lump. It can look like one of the lumps in the stage of growth when it is deep purple. The second name of this herb is **komde aker wride**. It may may be related to **cou-mede áker wride**, meaning **cow-meadow field clump**. The first word can also be read **kunde**. It is close to **cunnede** and means **sought for** (MEC).



Open sandy places, including waste ground, and in docklands, usually casual but sometimes naturalised on roadsides and in meadows. Lowland.

- 1 *otiodof*
otiodof
otiodof
ate-wod-dof
edible-dove
wete-wod-dof
water-dove

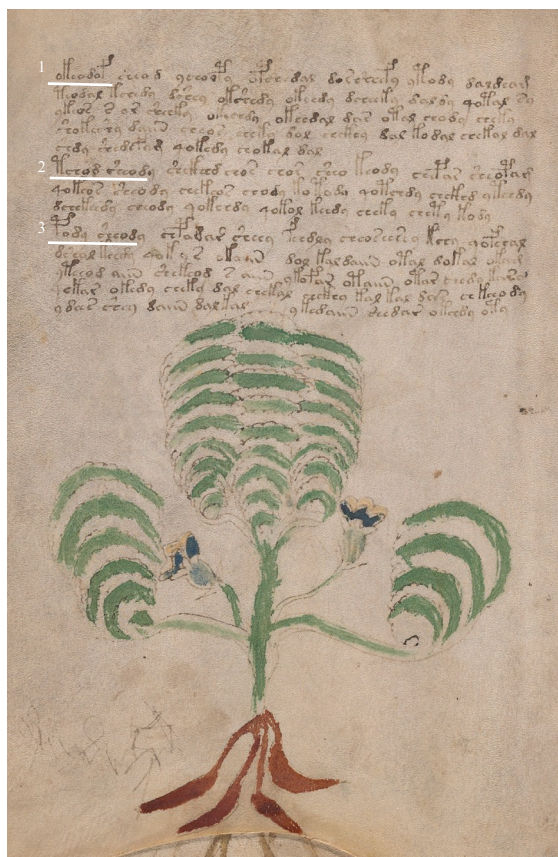
TH: Dovesfoot,
dowort wodewort
= geranium mole/
colombinum

- 2 *klod riode*
klod Riode
klod riode
glod reode
gold red

See f57r a
geranium phaeum
or sanguineum
called *riode*.

- 3 *bode riode*
bode Riode
bode riode
be wode reode
be "wode"red

TH: wodewort,
woderove =
geranium mole/
colombinum



F66v. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

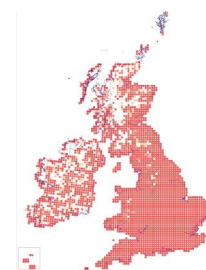


Photo source: Geranium molle. Johann Georg Sturm (Painter: Jacob Sturm) - Figure from Deutschlands Flora in Abbildungen (1796).



Photo source: Geranium molle. Stefan Iefnaer - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0

The first name in this folio is *otiodof*. It may relate to *ate-dof*, meaning *food-dove*. Another interpretation is *wete-dof*, meaning *water-dove*. *Dove* is found in the name *dovesfoot* and *dowort*. They are registered for **dove's foot, Geranium molle**. If the name is water-dove, the species may be *Geranium palustre* as it grows in marshes. Other candidates are *Geranium sylvaticum* or *pratense*. The flowers of *Geranium paulustre* are often deep violet. They have a light-colored center like those in the illustration. The illustration's flower matches *Geranium* well. It is hard to say which one of them it is. Notice the bulb just below the branches in the illustration. A similar bulb is found in the botanical illustration by Sturm. It is also notable that the root looks a bit like a bird's foot. There are two herbs identified as *Geranium* in the manuscript. The other one is in f57r. They are both called *riode*. It is probably related to *reod*, meaning *red*.



Dry, grassy places like meadows, pastures, verges and lawns, as well as on cultivated ground and waste ground.

Folio 67-73: Astronomy/Zodiac
Folio 74: Lacking
Folio 75-84: Balneology
Folio: 85-86: Rosette map

1 *ḥoag ʔʔag*
 boag Risaʒ
bweg rsegh
 be weg-ris-egh
 Be road-stalk-
 high

Centaures nigra
 habitat= road
 verges

2 *ʔoḥḥor*
 Ro(bl)or
roblwr
 rod-bul-wr
 red bull wort

TH: *bullwed* =
Centaurea nigra

3 *ʔoḥḥo*
 mo(bl)io
nop-blio
 knop-blihe /
 knop-blo

MEC: *knop-blihe*
 = knapwed

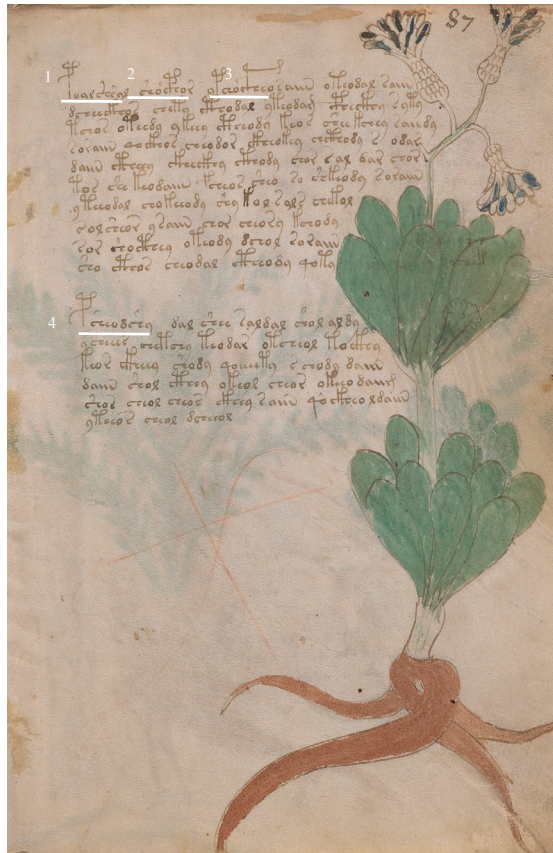
TH: *knapwort*,
clubwede = *Centaurea nigra*

MEC: *bló* = dark

4 *ʔoḥḥoʔ*
 RiordRe
riod-re
 reod-wre
 red wort

MEC: *Réd-wort*
 = *raggede* ~,
 ? = *rag* ~; *rag* ~,
red ~, q.v.; *ren-*
ninge ~, a thistle
 or teasel of some
 sort.

TH: *C. nigra* =
matefeloun with
a rede flour,



F87r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

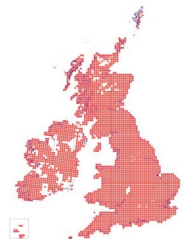


Photo source: *Centaurea nigra*. Smith, J.E., English botany, or coloured figures of British plants, ed. 3, vol. 5 (1866).



Photo source: *Centaurea nigra*. BerndH - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

This herb was first identified by the fourth word *naplio*. The first part of it, *nap*, I read in the same way as the modern English word *knap*. There are registered names with *knap* in it. The most related is *knop-blihe*, used for knapweed (MEC). The second part of the first name *naplio* is *blio*. It is possibly related to *blithe*, as in the registered name. It can also be related to *blo*, meaning *dark*, or *bleu*, meaning *blue*. There is a knapweed with black in its name, **black knapweed**, *Centaurea nigra*. Another one has blue in its name, blue knapweed, *Centaurea montana*. The first is native and the second was introduced to cultivation in Britain before 1596. The illustration matches knapweed well. It has a tall erect stalk, lanceolate leaves, several flowerheads with large scaly bracts and a taproot. There is one more name in the text. It leads to black knapweed. The second word in the first paraph is *roblwr*. I believe it is related to *rod-bul-wr* and means **red bull wort** (MEC). It can be associated with the name *bullwed*, registered for black knapweed (TH).



Absent from very damp or acid sites. Meadows, pastures, road verges, field borders, waste ground, scrub land and woodland edges

1 𐌺𐌵𐌹𐌺𐌺𐌺
bblme
pplme
popyll-lamb

TH: popyll
= Capsella
bursa-pastoris
TH: lamb's heart
= ?Capsella
bursa-pastoris,
?thlaspi arvense

2 𐌺𐌵𐌹𐌺𐌺𐌺
(bl)iodar
blioder
bleddyr

TH:
bleddyr-wort,
bledewort,
stancheblode,
nozebledill, blod-
wort = Capsella
bursa-pastoris

3 𐌺𐌵𐌹𐌺𐌺𐌺
oblme
oplme
hop-lamb
Raised dryer
ground lamb

TH: lamb's heart
= ?Capsella
bursa-pastoris,
?thlaspi arvense



F87v. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.



Photo source: Bilder ur Nordens Flora (1917-1026). Large: Capsella bursa-pastoris, small: Thlaspi arvense



Photo source: Capsella bursa-pastoris Dalgial - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

Photo source: Thlaspi arvense. Enrico Blasutto - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0



Arabidopsis thaliana by Benjamin Zwittmig - http://www2.arnes.si/~bz Witt/Flora/arabidopsis_thaliana.html, CC BY 2.5

These two herbs seem to be called the same, *lne* or *lme*. When I associated this name to *lamb* (also *lam*), I found the two herbs **shepherd's purse**, *Capsella bursa captoris* and **field penny cress**, *Thlaspi arvense*. They are both associated with the registered name **Lamb's heart** (TH). They do not match well enough with the illustrations to rely only on this single interpretation. But the first word in paragraph one is *pplme*. Sheperd's purse was called *popyll*. With the registered names *popyll* and *lamb* in mind, the name *pplme*, can be divided to *ppl-lme*, and be read *popyll-lamb*. Sheperd's purse matches the right herb with a rosette of deeply lobed pinnate leaves. It has numerous white flowers, a reddish stalk and a tap root. Its flowers are not red, but the seeds have an orange color. There is another name in the first paragraph, *blioder*, that matches Sheperd's purse too. It is registered called *bleddyr-wort*, *bledewort*, *stancheblode*, *nozebledill*, *blodwort* (TH). *Blioder* may be a variation of *bleddyr* or *bleader*. Sheperd's purse has traditionally been used to stop bleeding. It is closely related to *Arabidopsis thaliana*, the **thale cress**, **mouse-ear cress**. This is another good alternative to the herb to the left. In the Highlands and Essex was Sheperd's purse used to stop bleeding and for excessive menstrual discharge (FM).

1 *ayccoꝝ*
azmoz
eghnogh
hey-nag

MEC: Nag =
 horse

TH: *Centaurea*
scabiosa = *hey-*
hove, *horsfartis*



F90r1. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

2 *klwrt*
 (kl)o(rd)
klwrt
 ?kul-wort

Kule, etymology:
 Old Norse
kúla (“swelling”),
 from
 Proto-Germanic
 **kūlō*. Middle
 German variants
 of the word in the
 original sense
 “ball used in
 skittles or
 Paille-maille”
 are *kaule*, *kulle*.
kugel = ball,
 sphere

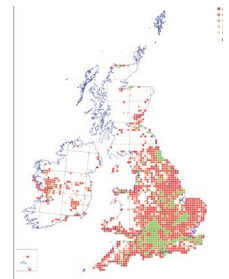


Photo source: *Centaurea scabiosa*. Vol. 10, Flora Batava, Kops, J. (1849).



Photo source: *Centaurea scabiosa*. By Robert Flogaus-Faust - Own work, CC BY 4.0.

The first name in this folio is *eghnogh*. I believe it is related to *hay nagh*. *Nagh* means horse. *Hay* and *nagh* is close to part of the names *heyhove* and *horsfartis*. They are registered for **greater knapweed**, *Centaurea scabiosa*. The illustration has similarities to greater knapweed. The root is especially well drawn and the large lump of bracts. The leaves are deeply lobed. The match, except from being placed only at the root of the plant. The flowers are drawn without petals. There is a second interesting name, *klwrt*. I believe it is describing the ball shaped flower, where *kl* is related to the proto-Germanic *kūlō*, meaning **ball**.



Dry grassland, in hedgerows, on chalk downland, and on cliff tops on lime-rich soil.

1 Pimpinella
k oia3ls
k wieghls
Cy-wales

TH: Pimpinella
saxifrage = Cy-
wort ey3ewort,
sedwale,
heywort, wey-
wort, yworte.

MEC:
Wale or wales
(early infl.) =
root.



F90r2. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.



Photo source: Fuchs, L., New Kreüterbuch (1543)

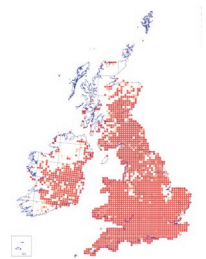


Photo source: AnRo0002 - Own work, CC0



Photo source: Salicyna - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0

This herb was identified by the first word **kwieghls**. I believe it relates to the names **cywort** and **sedwale**. They are registered for **burnet saxifrage**, *Pimpinella saxifraga*. If one adds parts from these two names, one gets **Cy-wale**. It is close to the manuscript's **k-wieghls**. **Wale** means root. The illustration has green flowers that look almost like some of the simplified bell flowers in the manuscript (see f54v). They do not look like the umbellifer of burnet saxifrage. I still believe this is burnet saxifrage. The leaves are similar and they grow as a rosette from the root. In addition, a few leaves are placed on the stalk. The root is double like in the illustration. It consist of a long tuber. On top of it is a bulb. From the root grows several stalks of leaves. The stalks can carry several umbels.



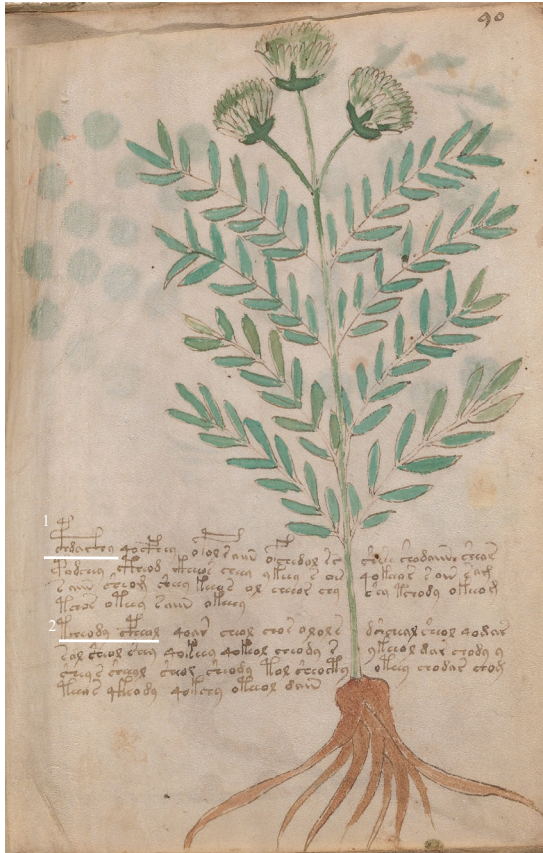
Makes up a large part of the turf in some of southern England's chalk downs. Dry, well drained, calcareous soils (particularly chalk and limestone downs), occasionally, acidic sands.

¹ *Ḥadac̄a*
(bl)adRe
bldere
blede-wre
bleed wort

Scabiosa = blood
purifier and sore
healer

² *Ḥlode, Ḥlode*
kliode (bl)iaḡ
kliode bliech
k-leo the bleach
k lion the pale

See f34v. This herb
relates to *Succisa*
pratensis, Devils
bit:
TH: *lyonnestoothe*
= *Succisa pratensis*
MEC: *lion* = lion,
fig. Christ, the
Devil



f90r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.



Photo source: *Scabiosa atropurpurea*. Jaume Saint-Hilaire, J.H., *flore et la pomone françaises* (1828-1833)



Photo source: *Scabiosa ochroleuca*, cream scabious. By T. Kebert - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0

The herb in this page is illustrated with pinnate leaves. It has green petals, several flowers and a tap root. The closest I get from its appearance is some kind of *Scabiosa* or *Knautia*. There is another herb in f34r in the manuscript that is identified as Devil's bit, *Succisa pratensis*. Devil's bit reminds of *Scabiosa* and *Knautia* in appearance. The shape of the leaves is separating them. They are registered under some of the same names (TH). These names are not matching any of the names neither in f34r nor f90r. There is an interesting connection between the names in f34r and f90r though. The second paragraph in f34r starts with the name *klio*. It can be interpreted as *k-lion*. *Lion* (*lion*) is also found in the first name in f34r, *lioiple* (*lion apple/ball*). *Lion* is also found in this page. The second paragraph starts with *kliode bleach*. It may be interpreted *k-lion the bleach* and means *k lion the pale* (MEC). It makes sense both associated with f34r and the color of the herb in this page. This strengthens the idea that the herb in this page is a kind of *Scabiosa* or *Knautia*. An infusion of *Knautia* can be used internally as a blood purifier and externally for treating cuts, burns and bruises (P). With that as a background, the first name in the text may be read *blede-wre*, meaning something like *bleed-wort*. Species of scabious were used to treat scabies, and many other afflictions of the skin including sores caused by the bubonic plague. The first words in this folio is *blde-re go flie o bochsewn*, it seems to be related to *blede-wre go flie o boch's wen*, meaning *bleed wort go drive away a bubo (of the plague) lump*.

1 *lios lodar*
 lios lodar
lios loder/lóther
 leos loder/lóther
 Lion's (Devil's /
 Christ's) harmer /
 porter

2 *rogh*
 Ro3
rogh
 rogh

?*Urtica urens*:
 rough urtie

3 *wgh-riod*
 o3Riod
wgh-riod
 wogh-reod
 harm-red

5 *k-riodegh*
 riode goliok
k-riodegh
 riode goliok
 k-reod-thegh
 reode galice
 k-red-stalk
 red gallic

TH: *Urtica* spp:
 red-nettyll, galli-
 ce urtie

6 *clwde-urt*
 (kl)odau(rd)
clwde-urt
 cloth-wrt
 cloth wort
 clawed-wrt
 clawed wort



F90v1. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.



Photo source: *Urtica dioica*. Fuchs, L., New Kreütterbuch (1543)



Photo source: *Urtica dioica*. Frank Vincentz - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0



Photo source: *Urtica dioica*. Frank Vincentz - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

This was one of the first herbs I identified. The words **lios loder** are the same as in Middle English, and means **lion's harmer**. The name made sense because the root looks like a lion. The leaves also looked like the only harming plant I knew at the time, **nettle**. I later found other names in the page that strengthened this identification. A repeated name of this herb is **riod**. It is close to **reod** and means **red** (MEC). **Red** is found in the registered names of **nettle**, **Urtica** (TH). The flowers of this plant did not make sense to me before I found a closeup picture. They look like a cross. Another name in this folio is **klotheurt** or **klwdeurt**. It can be related to **clóthe** meaning **cloth**. Nettle was used to make fibers for cloth. Or, it can be related to **clawed**, as the nettle stings. Another repeating word is **ogh** or **wgh**. It may be related to **ugge**, meaning **dread**, or **wough**, meaning **wickedness** or **harm**.

Folio 91 is lacking

Folio 92 is lacking

1 oðeɾoɣ
odRoɣ
wd-rogh
woderuff

TH: Wode-ruff,
?wuderove =
Chrysanthemum
balsamita.

2 flo ɣeɾeɾoɿ
ko ɜRmos
ko hi-remos
co/cou hi-?remos
craw/cow in
remorse

See f44v: co =
Chrysanthemum
vulgare

3 o klodagɣ
o (kl)odagɣe
oklodeghe
a glod-eghe
a gold eye

4 loko(rd)
lokwrt
louk-wort
lukewarm/warm
wort

5 (kl)odar Rio
kloder rio
glod-ère rew
gold-ear warm/
lukewarm

6 floRe
a flo-re
flo-wre
flow wort

See: f20r
Flothme =
Thymus.
MEC: flo =
of a wound or
sore: to give
off (blood or
pus) overflouen:
med. of hemor-
rhoids: to bleed
too much



F93r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

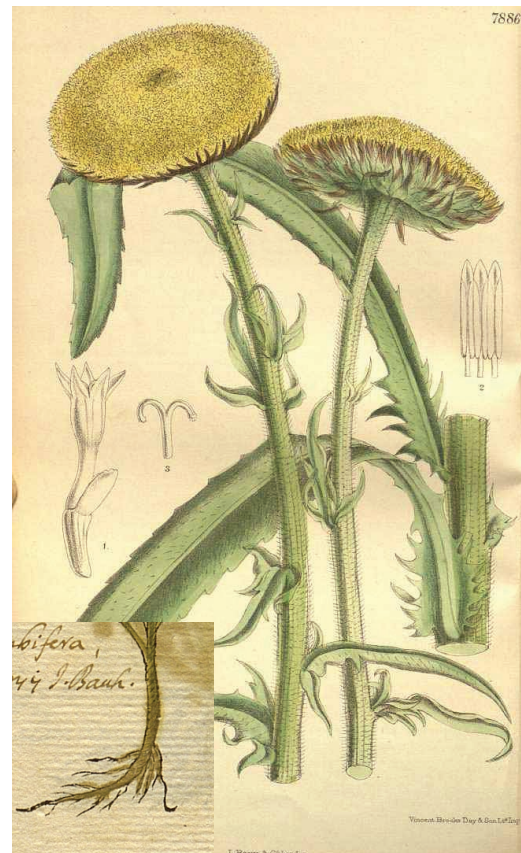


Photo source: Tanacetum balsamita. Curtis, W., Botanical Magazine (1800-1948) vol. 129 (1903), and Dodoens R., Stirpium historia commentariorum. (1553-1554)



Photo source: Tanacetum balsamita. Joan Simon from Barcelona, España - Tanacetum balsamita, CC BY-SA 2.0

This herb was identified by the first word in paragraph one, **wd-rogh**. It is close to **wode-ruff**, a registered name for **costmary**, **Tanacetum balsamita** (TH). This is the first place I found that clearly indicate that **ɣ** covers the sound of **gh**. It is a sound that sometimes turns into **f**, like for example in modern English **rough**. The flower is drawn very large in the illustration. There are other illustrations of costmary with a large flower like this, for example the one of Curtis above. The herb in this folio is given some of the same names as the other Tancetum in the manuscript, Tansy, in 44v. Tansey has the same petalless flowers. Both are called **ko**, meaning **craw** or **cow** (MEC). The name **flo-re** may be interpreted as **flo-wre**, meaning **flow wort** (MEC). **Flo** is also found in the name **flothme**, identified as Thyme in f20r. It may refer in general to the flow of fluids in the body, to blood, to menstruation or to diseases like dysentery. In medieval times, costmary was used for menstruation problems. (Wikipedia)

Garden plant

¹ *klide*
klide
klide
k-léde/lide
k field/lead

f94r *?Glechoma hederacea* / *?Ground Ivy*

?Korsknapp

² *bawr*
bewr
bewort

TH: *Melissa officinalis* = *bewort*

³ *lidawn dRmde*
lidewn th-rnthe
lide/lede-wyn/wan
the renneth
lead vine/grayish
that runs

TH: *wodewynd*,
= *Glechoma hederacea*

⁴ *akehewn*
akehewn
ake-y-wyn
ache “y” vine

TH: *erth-ywyn*, =
Glechoma hederacea

⁵ *oker-lde*
oker-lde
a ker-lide
a “ker”/field lead

TH: *kerwort* =
Melissa officinalis

⁶ *the eikste*
the eikste
the ache-remov-
ing

Ground ivy was
used to clear the
head, and get
rid of headaches
(FM)



f94r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.



Photo source: *Glechoma hederacea*. Fuchs, L., *New Kreütterbuch* (1543)

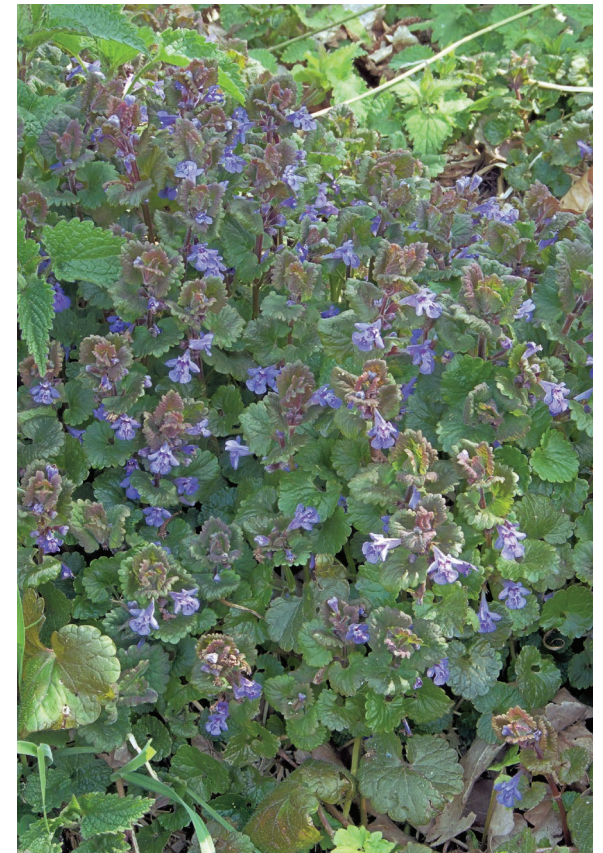
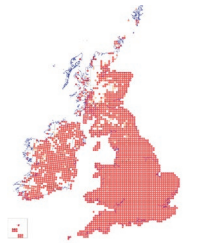


Photo source: *Glechoma hederacea*. By Rasbak - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

This herb is called **bewr** (2) and **oker-lide** (5). Both names are close to **bewort** and **kerwort**. They are registered names for *Melissa officinalis* (TH). *Melissa officinalis* has white flowers and do not match this illustration. The illustrated herb may be another plant in the mint family. The herb in the illustration is drawn like the climbing herbs in the manuscript, or like those running on the ground. It has a long stalk bending downwards. It may be **ground ivy**, **Glechoma hederacea**. Ground ivy is an aromatic herb in the mint family. It has violet flowers. The numerous small leaves have waved margin. They are placed in opposite arrangement on the unbranched stalk. The root has similarities to the one in the illustration. It spreads by runners. The first four words in the folio say *klide obewr lidawn th rnthe / k-lide a bewr lide-wyn the renneth / K-lead a “bewort” lead-vine that runs*. *Lde* and *lide* are found several places in the names in this folio. It may be related to *lid* as the flowers are *lead* violet. Another interpretation is that they are related to *léde*. It means **field**, and one of ground ivy’s habitats are **fields**.



Grasslands and wooded areas or waste-
land. It also thrives in lawns and around
buildings since it survives mowing.

1 **ṛiṣḍe ṛiṣḍar**
 Ri(sd)je lidar
riste lider
 rist lid-ère
 good lead ear

2 **ḡṛiṣḍe**
 aRi(sd)e
ei-riste
 ei-riste
 eye/water rest
 (freedom from pain)

3 **ḡṛiṣḍe**
 kidaun lide
kideun lide
 ?cyððan-léde
 ?homeland
 meadow

4 **ḡṛiṣḍe**
 elmo
elmo
 ei/é-limo
 eye/water limon
 ?refeering to
 the greek name
 leimon meaning
 meadow?

5 **ṛiṣḍe**
 lidawn
lidewn
 lidewan
 lead grayish

MEC: *léd, lid*
 (S) = lead

Liomonium =
 leadwort family

6 **ḡṛiṣḍe**
 ablaur
ei-pldeur
 ei/water(?)
 blede-ur
 eye/water(?)
 bleed wort

Limonium is
 used to treat
 haemorrhage

f94v ?*Limonium* / *Sea lavender*

Marrisp



F94v. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.



Photo source: *Limonium vulgare*. Smith, J.E., English botany, or coloured figures of British plants, ed. 3 [B] [J.E. Sowerby et al] (1863-1899)

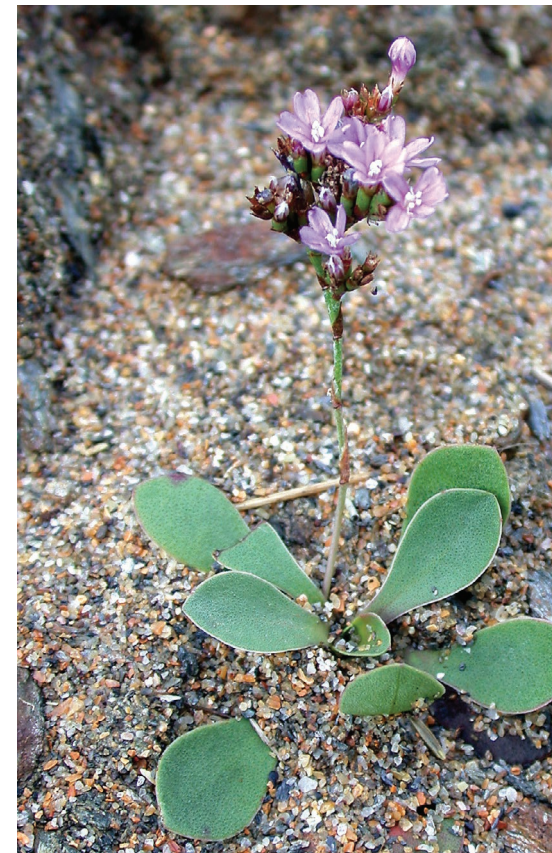
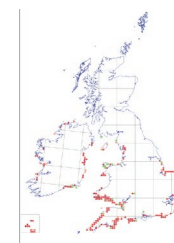


Photo source: *Limonium britannicum*. Len Worthington, CC BY-SA 2.0

This herb was identified by its appearance. In this page we are looking for a herb with a dense basal rosette and tubers. The shape of the flower may be misleading since a raceme can be illustrated by a long bract and a single flower. See for example f14v, f37v and f94. The flower is probably violet, blue or purple. The person coloring this illustration has made an effort of mixing the blue and green more grayish. I searched for plants with a basal rosette and lanceolate leaves, with tubers and bluish flower(s). I found *ker* several places in the text. This is not an *Apium* so *ker* may mean *marsh* here. I added *marsh* as a habitat. *Limonium* appeared as an alternative. *Limonium binervosum* for example, grows in salt marshes. Except from having a tap root and not tubers it is a good match. *Limonium* belongs to the family leadwort. The first name in this folio is *riste lider*. *Lid* is found in Middle English southern dialects. It means *lead*. *Er* is found in another herb name in the manuscript. In f40v the herb is called *lik-er*. It is identified as roof house leek, also called earwort. Earwort has succulent leaves with the same lanceolate shape as *Limonium binervosum*. The last part of the first name, *lider*, may then be related to *lid-ère*, meaning *lead ear*.



L. binervosum: A wide range of coastal habitats including sea-cliffs, dock walls, shingle banks and saltmarshes

1 𐌹𐌸𐌰𐌹
Rdor
rdwr
?wride -wr
?clump-wort

2 𐌹𐌸𐌰𐌹
libl(sd)e
liplste
lib-liste
?life/love cunning/desire

3 𐌹𐌸𐌰𐌹
fawn
fewn
foam/fawn
foam/?reddish brown

TH: foam-dock
= *Saponaria officinalis*

MEC: fawn
= ?as adj. or used attrib.:
?of a fawn-like (reddish brown) color

4 𐌹𐌸𐌰𐌹
𐌹𐌸𐌰𐌹
kldor or
litl(sd)e
kldwr or litlste
k-lid-wr or
lit-liste
k lead wort or
light cunning/desire



F95r1. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

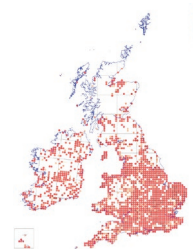


Photo source: *Saponaria officinalis*. Sturm, J., Sturm, J.W., Deutschlands flora (1798-1855). Deutschl. Fl. vol. 2 (1798)



Photo source: *Saponaria officinalis*. By 4028mdk09 - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0.

This herb was identified by the third word in the first paragraph, *fewn*. It reminds of *foam*. There is a plant with the registered name *foam-dock*. It is *soapwort*, *Saponaria officinalis*. The illustration shows stalk that is long and bended downwards. In the manuscript creeping or climbing plants are drawn with bended stalks. Soapwort occasionally has a long prostrate stem. The illustration matches its paired leaves. The stalk is unbranched and the flowers are purple to white. The root is forming a clump as in the illustration. The identification is still uncertain, as it is only based on the word *fewn*. The word may be interpreted differently.



Fields, roadsides and along the banks of streams.

1 𐌹𐌺𐌰𐌸𐌰 𐌲𐌴 𐌸𐌰𐌸𐌰
 Ri(sd)e or l(sd)e
riste or lste
 wriste or lste
 good and cunning

2 𐌸𐌰𐌹𐌺𐌰
 d azfle
th eghfle
 the egh-flé
 the eye-flea
 or
 the high flea

TH: *fleawort* =
Pulicaria vulgaris
 and *dysenterica*
 MEC: egh = eye,
 high

3 𐌸𐌰𐌹𐌺𐌰𐌹𐌺𐌰
 l(tl)efle
ltle-fle
 ltile-fle
 little flea
 or
 reduce/small
 flying insects

Modern english:
Small fleabane =
Pulicaria vulgaris

May not be a
 plant name



F95r2. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.



Photo source: *Pulicaria dysenterica*. Curtis, W., *Flora Londinensis* (1775-1798)



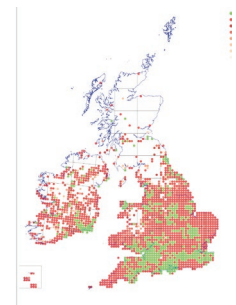
Photo source: *Pulicaria vulgaris*. By Christian Fischer, CC BY-SA 3.0.

4 𐌸𐌰𐌹𐌺𐌰
 (sd)ar awn
ster ewn
 stér ?hewen
 incense ?Calen-
 dula

5 𐌸𐌰𐌹𐌺𐌰
 kRod
k-rod
 K- ?rod

TH: *fleawort* =
Pulicaria vulgaris
 and *dysenterica*
 MEC: egh = eye,
 high

In this text I found **ltle-fle** as word number seven. The word lacks only a few letters from the modern English **little flea**. There is a herb with a name that can be associated with **little flea**. It is **small fleabane**, **Pulicaria vulgaris**. In medieval England it was called **fleawort** (TH). The illustration shows many similarities to small fleabane. There is also another word ending with **fle**, **d egh-fle**. It may be interpreted as **the egh-fle**. It means either **the high flea** or **the eye flea** (MEC). This name may refer to the taller **common fleabane**, **Pulicaria dysenterica**. It can also refer to appearance or medicinal use. The herb illustrated has a colorless stalk. It fits with common fleabane that has a white stalk. Small fleabane has a red stalk. Common fleabane has longer petals, but these appear only when the herb reaches a certain height. Common fleabane is often forming dense clusters of plants, and spreads by root. It matches the illustration well. Fleabane's common name comes from its former use as an incense to drive away insects. The word **ltle-fle** is not necessarily a plant name. It can be read **litli** (SW or WM) **fle**, meaning **reduce flying insects**. The word **ster** is found in name 4. **Ster** means to burn **incense**.



Damp, wet, open habitats like marshy places, water- and fen-meadows, tall-herb fens, by water sides, in dune-slacks, wet hollows and seepages on sea-cliffs, damp woodland rides and roadside verges.

1 **klode**
klode
klode
glode
gold

TH: goldwort
= *Filipendula*
ulmaria

2 **bodar Rode**
b a der rode
be a dère rōde
be a dear ?stalk

3 **gokidawn**
gokidawn
gokidewn
gog-kide-wan
marsh-brush-
wood-luster less



F95v2. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.



Photo source: *Filipendula ulmaria* (L.) Maxim. Zorn, J., *Icones plantarum medicinalium*, Abbildungen von Arzneygewächsen, 1. Aufl. (1779-1784)



Photo source: By Franz Xaver. CC BY-SA 3.0.

There are several ray flowers in the manuscript called **klode**, in the meaning of **gold**. This herb is also called **klode**, but it is not a ray flower. Gold is also found in the registered name **goldwort**. It was used for **meadowsweet**, ***Filipendula ulmaria*** (TH). The illustration matches meadowsweet quite well. It has white flowers. The leaves are ovate with a toothed margin. Underneath they are downy. The tap root has many root threads growing downwards. The third name in this page is **gokidewn**. The first part gok reminds of **gog** a word for **marsh**. Marshes are of the habitats of meadowsweet. **Gokidewn** can be divided to **gog-kide-wn**. It may be related to **gog-kide-wan** and translated to marsh brushwood lusterless.



Wet ground in swamps, marshes, fens, wet woods and meadows, wet rock ledges and by rivers, but not on acid peats.

1 ȝfƿcȝ ȝcȝƿa
 ȝzkmdē Roibaun
ohkmdē roibun
 hawkmedē Robin

MEC: Robin = a
 familiar form of
 Robert

TH: Hawkfoot
 = geranium ssp.
 wede-wort =
 Geranium rober-
 tianum



F95v1. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

2 ȝfƿcȝ
 oitRe
wit-re
 wede-wre

TH: wede-wort =
 Geranium rober-
 tianum

3 ȝfƿcȝ ȝfƿcȝ
 kR(sd)ȝ gokRe
k-rstegh got-re
 K-rist-egh gāt-
 wre
 K good eye road
 wort
 K-rith-thegh
 gāt-wre

Habitat: Lime-
 stone pavements

4 ȝfƿcȝ ȝfƿcȝ
 kRie kawm
k-rie kwm
 K-writhe/?wrie
 cweme
 K-wreath/?cover
 pleasing

5 ȝfƿcȝ ȝfƿcȝ
 ȝfƿcȝ
 bRidar Ride
 tRide
b-rither ride
t-ride
 bi rith-er wride
 te wride
 by justice air
 flourish this
 clump



Photo source: Geranium robertianum. Fuchs, Leonhart, 1543. New Kreütterbuch.



Photo source: Geranium robertianum. By H. Zell-Own workCC BY-SA 3.0

This herb is called **ohkmdē**. I believe it is related to **hawk-mede**. **Hawk** is found in the registered name **hawkfoot** used for **herb-Robert, Geranium robertianum** (TH). **Mede** and **wede** is often used for the same herbs, and herb-Robert is also called **wede-wort** (TH). The illustration fits well with herb-Robert. It is a creeping plant and the stalks are drawn long and bended. This characteristic is found for many of the creeping and climbing plants in the manuscript. The do not have a stalk that is self-supported. The leaves, flowers and root have great similarities to herb-Robert too. From the root grows several stalks. There are things that do not match. The flowers are too many and the stalk is unbranched. Usually mistakes in illustrations are caused by simplifications. I still believe this is a Geranium. The mistake of too many flowers and an unbranched stalk may have come as a result of the need to explain that this is a prostrate plant. It is easier to fill the long bended stalk with flowers than the complicated shapes of the leaves.



Shade-tolerant herb. Woods, hedgerows, walls,
 shaded banks, limestone pavements, screes and
 coastal shingle

- 1 **kor** **lmo**
 kor lmo
kor lmo
 “kar” elle-mor
 “kar” “elle”-root

TH: *felle-mor* =
Daucus carota

See the plants in
 the carrot family
 called **kor** and
kor: f4v, f31v,
 f33v, f39v, f43r,

- 2 **okmo**
 okmo
okmo
 âche-mor
 Apium-root

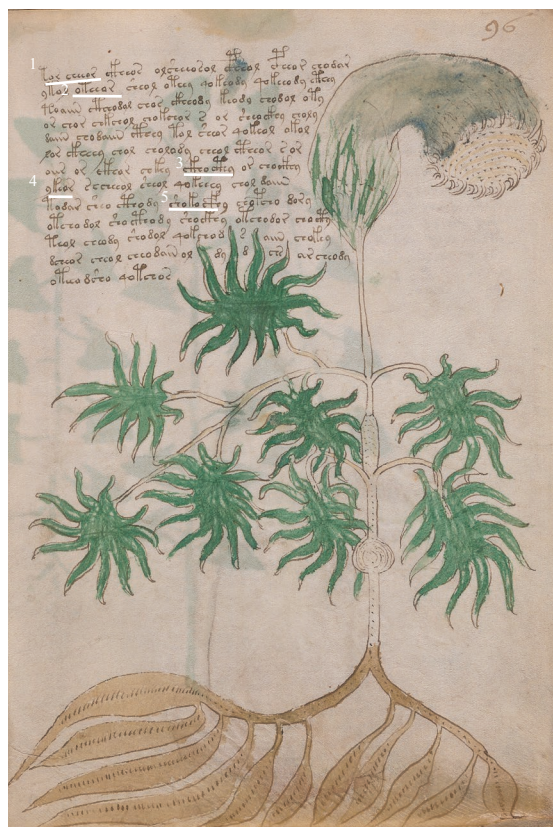
See the plants in
 the carrot family
 called ok and eike
 f5v, f14v, f18v,
 f27v, f65r,

- 3 **tlwkle**
 (tl)w(kl)e
tlwkle
 tillow(?)-clé
 cultivation-Claw(root)

Tillow of tillen
 = to cultivate

- 4 **etior**
etior
etior
 ét/heit-wr
 food/hot-wort

- 5 **roto fle**
 Roto (fle)
roto fle
 rôt o felle
 root of *Daucus*
carota
 See (1)



F96r. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

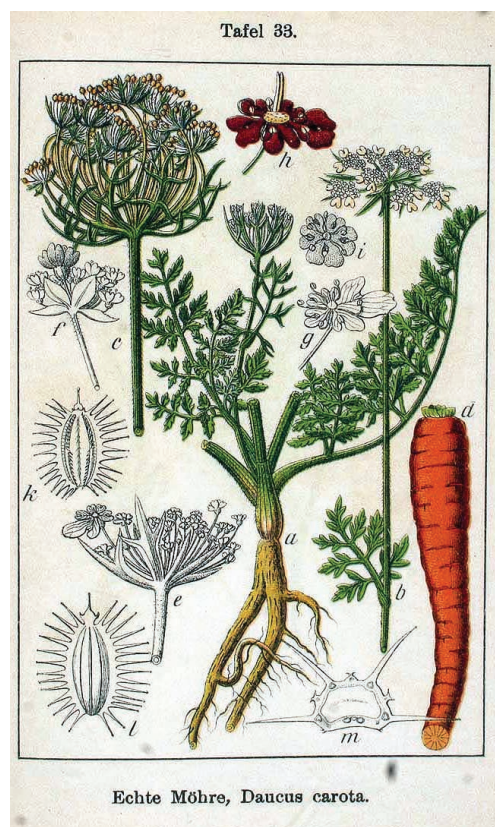
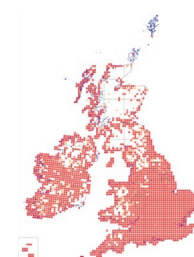


Photo source: Sturm, J., Krause, E.H.L., Lutz, K.G., Flora von Deutschland in Abbildungen nach der Natur, Zweite auflage (1900-1907), vol. 12 (1904)



Photo source: Tigerente - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0.
 And Jac. Janssen from Baarlo lb, NL - 20150726 010 Kessel Weerdbeemden Peen
Daucus carota, CC BY 2.0

It was hard to imagine what kind of plant this illustration showed. But the names made the strange shapes reasonable. I first found **lmo**. I believe it can be divided to **l-mor** and be associated with the medieval vernacular name **elle-mor**. It is registered for **wild carrot, Daucus carota** (TH). The first word in the text is **kor** or **kar**. **Kar** and **ker** is repeated for the plants in the carrot family in the Voynich manuscript. It fits with the interpretation of **l-mor**. Carrot is an Apium plant. Apiums are in the manuscript called **ok** and **eike**, and they match plants registered under the name **âche** (TH/MEC). **Ok** is found in the second line in the word **okmo**. This is the third name matching carrot in this text. **Okmo** can be divided to **ok-mor**, and associated with **âche-mor**, meaning **Apium root**. the illustration matches wild carrot. The root is tuberous and the leaves are finely divided. In the illustration the leaves look palmate. In reality they are tripinnate. The tripinnate shape is hard to draw. I find the simplification reasonable. The stalk of wild carrot is hairy. We find the hairs as dots in the illustration. It has an umbellifer that curls up.



Infertile, well-drained, often calcareous, soils. Disturbed or open turf on chalk downs, rough grassland on roadsides, waysides and railway banks, quarries, chalk- and gravel-pits, and waste ground.

1 𐌲𐌹𐌺𐌴𐌹 𐌲𐌹𐌺𐌴𐌹
Rios Rmor
reos rnwr
reos-run-wr
Fall/drop running
herb

2 𐌲𐌹𐌺𐌴𐌹 𐌲𐌹𐌺𐌴𐌹
goibRode odor
qwip-rode wder
qwip-rode wode-er
hwip-stalk "wode-
ere"

TH: Convolvulus
arvensis (another
bindweed) =
ere terrestre,
wodebynde

3 𐌲𐌹𐌺𐌴𐌹 𐌲𐌹𐌺𐌴𐌹
(bl)mo obar
blmo o ber
?bel-mon of berry

See f54v, field
bindweed (
perennial morning
glory, small-flow-
ered morning)
called **belmaun**:
bel-mörn/bell món
bell-morning/
bell-devil

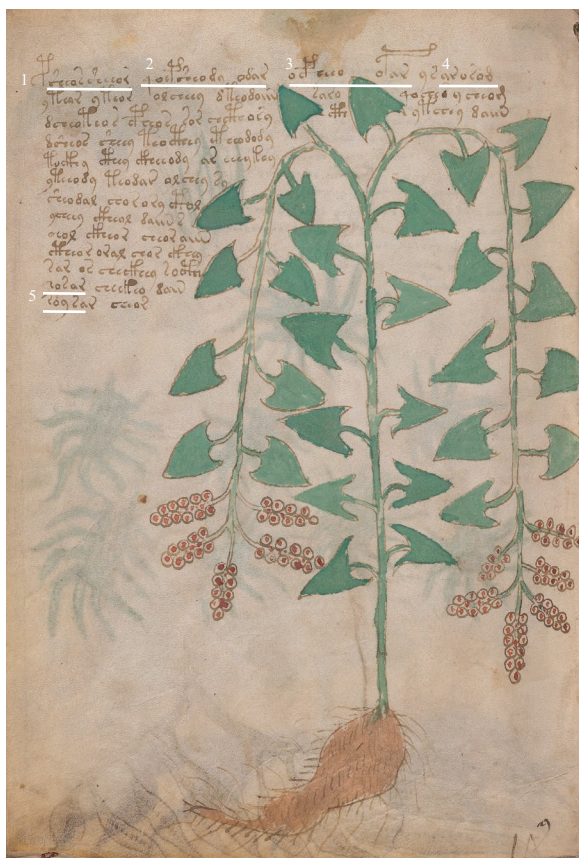
4 𐌲𐌹𐌺𐌴𐌹
aroso(rd)
er-os-wrt
ere-urs-wort

TH: bynde de
ursee, ere terrestre
= Convolvulus
arvensis (another
bindweed)

5 𐌲𐌹𐌺𐌴𐌹 + 𐌲𐌹𐌺𐌴𐌹
sosar + soesar
swsher + sweisher
savages-ere

TH: Dioscorea
communis = vin
savage

f96v *Dioscorea communis* (*Tamus communis*) / Black bindweed



F96v. Photo source: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

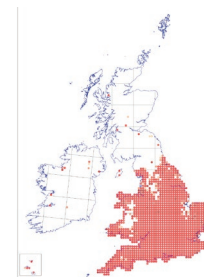


Photo source: Prof. Dr. Thomé's Flora von Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz, in Wort und Bild, für Schule und Haus, Pl. 136, 1903.



Photo source: By Skhirtla - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

This herb is quite easy to identify by the illustration. It has characteristic heart shaped leaves, red berries and a large tuberous root. In addition, it is drawn with a long bended stalks typically for the creeping or climbing herbs in the manuscript. I believe the herb illustrated is **black bindweed, Dioscorea communis**. There are two interesting words, **swser** and **sweiser**, that can be two versions of the same word. I believe they relate to **savage**, a registered name of black bindweed (TH). The association is maybe not obvious, but as the sound of **sh** could be written simply **s**, these words can then be **swsher** and **sweisher**. As **er** is found in several of the names in this folio, we can divide the words into **swsh-er** and **sweish-er** and we are getting close to **savage-ere**. **Ere** is also found in another bindweed's registered name, **ere terrestre**. It was used for field bindweed (See f54v). There is an illustration in f17v that is quite similar to this last illustration. It is identified as rough bindweed. The only thing separating them is the tendrils that rogh bindweed have. It fits with the identification, as black bindweed has no tendrils.



Mostly on neutral to calcareous, well-drained soils,
chalk and limestone, clay. Hedgerows, woodland edges
and along paths, waste land.

ABBREVIATIONS

TH: *Plant Names of Medieval England* by Tony Hunt, D.S. Brewer, Cambridge 1989.

MEC: *The Middle English Dictionary at the Middle English Compendium:*
<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary>

D: *De Materia Medica, Dioscorides*. Tess Anne Osbaldeston, 2000, IBIDIS PRESS cc.
<http://www.cancerlynx.com/dioscorides.html>. Dioscorides is chosen as it is known that *Materia Medica* was widely read in Europe for more than 1500 years, after its creation 50-70 CE.

P: *Plants for a future*: <https://pfaf.org/user/Default.aspx>

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SOURCES

Plant names and translations

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The online *Middle English dictionary* at *Middle English Compendium*: <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary>

Pictures from the Voynich manuscript

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Botanical illustrations

1. Wikimedia Commons
2. <http://plantillustrations.org>

Photos

Wikimedia. All the photos used are either Public Domain or license free by Creative Commons. Attributions are given to the photographers. Some photos are cropped.

Habitat and maps of distributions of the flora

Online Atlas of the British and Irish flora: <https://www.brc.ac.uk/plantatlas/>

Medicinal uses of herbs

De Materia Medica, Dioscorides. Tess Anne Osbaldeston, 2000, IBIDIS PRESS cc.

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