



FRAGARIA VESCA L.

Fam. Rosaceae

DESCRIPTION

Herbaceous perennial plant, universally known for its accessory fruits: strawberries.

HABITAT

It is native to Europe, Asia and North America.

DISTRIBUTION

This plant can commonly be found throughout Italy both at sea level and in hilly areas up to 1000 metres.

FLOWERS

The flowers are erect, holding 5 white petals with overlapping margins and triangular sepals. Depending on the variety of the strawberry, flowering begins in April.

ROOTS

It is an oblique and branched rhizome.

LEAVES

With a trifoliate blade, the upper side of the leaves is dark green, whilst the lower part is whitish and sparsely pubescent; the margin is roughly jagged.

FRUITS

Small achenes, scattered on the swollen, fleshy, oval, red receptacle; they can easily be picked off the calyx. The whole fruit is the well-known strawberry.

STEM

Thin and slightly lignified.

INTERESTING FACTS

Strawberries, whose roots and leaves contain tannins, have always been used to prepare home remedies. A strawberry decoction, for instance, helps increase the appetite, favours diuresis, purifies the body of uric acids and can also be used for gargling in the treatment of inflammations of the oral cavity and throat. Strawberry herbal infusions are a great substitute for tea.

