

# Polygonatum

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

## *Polygonatum*



*Polygonatum multiflorum*

## Scientific classification

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Magnoliophyta  
Class: Liliopsida  
Order: Asparagales  
Family: Ruscaceae  
Genus: ***Polygonatum***  
Mill.

## Species

See text

***Polygonatum*** (**King Solomon's-seal**, **Solomon's Seal**) is a genus of about 50 species of flowering plants within the family Ruscaceae, formerly classified in the lily family Liliaceae.

Some species of this genus have medicinal properties, and some (in particular *P. sibiricum*) are used as an tisane in traditional Chinese medicine, which is called Duong Gul Le in Korea.

Some *Polygonatum* shoots are edible, cooked like asparagus, as are the roots - after appropriate treatment <sup>[1]</sup> - being a good source of starch <sup>[2]</sup>.

## Selected species

- *P. biflorum* - Smooth (or Great) Solomon's-seal
- *P. cirrhifolium*
- *P. cobrense* - McKittrick's (or Southwest) Solomon's-seal
- *P. cyrtonema*
- *P. falcatum*
- *P. hirsutum* - Hairy Solomon's-seal
- *P. humile* - Dwarf Solomon's-seal
- *P. inflatum*
- *P. involucratum*
- *P. kingianum*
- *P. lasianthu*
- *P. latifolium* - Broadleaf Solomon's-seal
- *P. macropodium* - Big Footed Solomon's-seal
- *P. maximowiczii*
- *P. multiflorum* - (Common) Solomon's-seal
- *P. odoratum* - Scented (or Angular) Solomon's-seal
- *P. orientale* - Oriental Solomon's-seal
- *P. pubescens* - Downy Solomon's-seal
- *P. sibiricum*
- *P. stenanthum*
- *P. verticillatum* - Whorled Solomon's-seal
- *P. × hybridum* - Garden Solomon's-seal

## Medicinal uses

Revolving primarily around the root, "Solomon's Seal" are traditionally used in a range of afflictions from menopause to broken bones. As a topical application, the root are said to expedite the healing of cuts and bruises, skin irritations and inflammations, and as a face wash is good for acne, blemishes and all kinds of imperfections of the skin. When consumed as a tea, it is said to alleviate a range of symptoms associated with menopause, indigestion, diabetes, broken bones, insomnia, kidney pains, and even infertility.

Its use to fight diabetes was first observed in 1930 by Langecker. After experiments, he concluded that it was effective in fighting nutritional hyperglycemia, though not that caused by adrenaline release, probably due to its content in glucokinin. <sup>[3]</sup>

1. <sup>^</sup> [Altnature.com article on Solomon's Seal description and uses](#)
2. <sup>^</sup> [Polygonatum odoratum in ibiblio.org](#)
3. <sup>^</sup> Source:Quer, Pío Font "Plantas Medicinales - El Dioscórides renovado". 1961/2005  
Barcelona: Ediciones Península



*This **monocot**-related article is a **stub**. You can help Wikipedia by [expanding it](#).*  
Retrieved from "<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polygonatum>"

**Categories:** [All articles with unsourced statements](#) | [Articles with unsourced statements since February 2007](#) | [Monocot stubs](#) | [Ruscaceae](#) | [Dietary supplements](#) | [Medicinal plants](#) | [Flora of the Eastern United States](#)

- 
- This page was last modified 02:25, 21 December 2007.
  - All text is available under the terms of the [GNU Free Documentation License](#). (See [Copyrights](#) for details.)  
Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a U.S. registered [501\(c\)\(3\) tax-deductible nonprofit charity](#).