

Scarlet/Blue Pimpernel (*Harira Kaħla*, *Anagallis arvensis*)

This plant is an annual or biennial plant. It is found mostly in waste and cultivated places and rarely in soily garigue but it is common everywhere. It flowers from February till July and although the flowers are very small, they are considered as eye-catching by many, partly because they produce a lot of flowers and partly because of their bright colours (deep blue, scarlet or salmon-pink). In Malta the most common colour is the blue, followed by scarlet and the rarer salmon-pink. The base of every petal has a deep red-purple colour forming a small ring at the centre. The length of the petiole distinguishes this species from a related one (*Anagallis foemina*). Its capsule contains numerous seeds which turn brown when ripe. Its reproductive parts consist of 5 rigid stamens with a firm, reddish white-haired filament and a swollen anther with pollen. It also has a small, central ovary with a tiny style and an unspecified stigma. The flower is composed of five equal, narrow, teeth-like sepals. The 5-rounded petals form a flat-open corolla in full sunshine and a cup-shaped structure when sunlight is not intense.







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