

Conservation of, MURASAKI of endangered species  
and KURUMABA-AKANE of rare species

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○ About MURASAKI

The roots of Boraginaceae have been used for dyes and medicinal plants in Japan and Asia and Europa

Boraginaceae growing wild in Japan is MURASAKI, *Lithospermum erythrorhizon Siebold & Zuccarini*, and called “koushikon”.

The data by many researchers, about MURASAKI as dye plants is found on The textile magazine, “Sensyoku to Seikatsu” published in 1975.

There were many photos of MURASAKI grown wild and cultivated around Japan, including each roots growing from one year to five years. It is possible for us to buy Shikon until last year, but lately it become to be difficult to buy one suddenly, and now we can buy only Nan-Shikon and cultivating Shikon in China by only medicinal route. Murasaki is the endangered species, when I met then first time in 1999, they were grown in pot.

I started to grow with these seeds in 2001, but they had bred cross already.

In Tokyo, they had grown strange and big, so we get rid off roots and seeds.

We have been examining them and we are conserving Murasaki growing naturally since 2004, and we get the green light from Environment Division of Government and prefecture.

We must research about an indigene for avoidance extinction of Murasaki and for improvement of quality of cultivated species.

Shikon is great as dyes & medicinal plants for people, so we need to work in collaboration.