

# Purple saxifrage

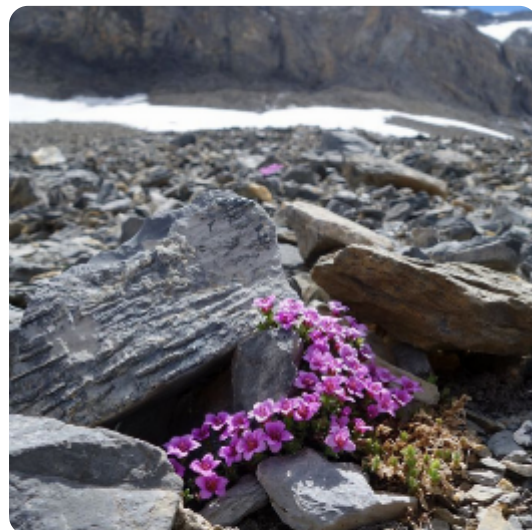
*Saxifraga oppositifolia* L., 1753

This saxifrage flowers from February onwards, even at high altitudes. It can be recognised by its beautiful purple flowers with dark purple stamens\* that are not very prominent. Its leaves are small, relatively triangular, and form more or less densely grouped columns depending on the altitude. This saxifrage holds the altitude record for a flowering plant in the French Alps: 4070 m, on the south face of the Barre des Ecrins.

\*stamens: the stamens are the male reproductive system of flowering plants.

## Not to confuse

The truncated saxifrage (*S. retusa*) has yellow stamen tips, which protrude far beyond the petals. As the name suggests, the two-flowered saxifrage (*S. biflora*) has its flowers grouped in at least two.



## Common names

Purple saxifrage

## Environment

Screes and high altitude rocky ridges

## Altitude

1350-4070 m

## Season

- february-september

## Size

5 to 10 cm

## Purple saxifrage

*Saxifraga oppositifolia* L., 1753

