

leaf considered diuretic and aphrodisiac. The volatile oil produces contractions of the gravid and non-gravid uterus. The plant has been shown to possess hypoglycemic activity. Intravenous celery extracts are hypotensive in dogs and rabbits.<sup>29</sup> Roots in India are considered alterative, diuretic, and are given in anasarca and colic. Seeds are used for bronchitis, asthma, and for liver and spleen diseases. Oil of celery is antispasmodic, carminative, sedative, stimulant, and tonic. Seeds considered anodyne, carminative, emmenagogue, nerve, stimulant, stomachic, and tonic. Root given in anasarca and colic.

On steam distillation French seed yield 1.9 to 2.4% oil; Indian seed yield 2.14 to 2.50%. The essential oil contains the glucoside apiin. Celery seed oil contains ca. 60% limonene, 10 to 15% selenine, 1 to 3% sesquiterpene alcohols, sedanolide, sedanonic anhydride a phenol (perhaps guaiacol), and palmitic acid.<sup>29</sup> Seeds also contain myristic acid, hydroxymethoxypsoralen, and umbelliferone. Diuresis may be due to the presence of glycolic acid. Stalks may yield the photodynamically active principle bergapten. Per 100 g, the leaf is reported to contain 21 calories, 92.8 g H<sub>2</sub>O, 1.4 g protein, 0.3 g fat, 4.2 total carbohydrate, 1.0 g fiber, 1.3 g ash, 62 mg Ca, 37 mg P, 2.5 mg Fe, 96 mg Na, 326 mg K, 1,040 µg beta-carotene equivalent, 0.06 mg thiamine, 0.07 mg riboflavin, 0.4 mg niacin, and 20 mg ascorbic acid. Garg et al.<sup>88</sup> report 6 coumarins in the seeds, seselin, isoimperatorin, osthonol, bergapten, isopimpinellin, and the novel apigravin. Per 100 g, celery seed is reported to contain 392 calories (1,641 kJ), 6.6 g H<sub>2</sub>O, 18.1 g protein, 25.3 g fat, 41.4 g total carbohydrate, 11.8 g fiber, 9.3 g ash, 1,767 mg Ca, 547 mg P, 45 mg Fe, 440 mg Mg, 160 mg Na, 1,400 mg K, 6.9 mg Zn, 52 IU vitamin A, and 17.1 mg ascorbic acid. There are 60 mg phytosterol.<sup>89</sup>

**Toxicity** — Celery tops containing 3.2 to 8.7% nitrates (dry weight) have caused loss of dairy cattle in California. Celery workers may develop pruritic papulo-vesicular dermatitis. Fungus infected celery, containing 8-methoxypsoralen and 4,5',8 trimethylpsoralen, are more liable to photosensitize, especially Caucasians. Oil GRAS (§ 182.10, 182.20).<sup>29</sup>