

# Plant that gave us warpaint recruited in fight against cancer

---

*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.med.diseases.cancer/2006-08/msg00069.html>

---

- *From:* J <[macyinno@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:macyinno@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 14 Aug 2006 06:40:23 -0400
- 

Note from me: Please remember this is all theory, until clinical trials.

J

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-2311761,00.html>

The Times August 14, 2006

Plant that gave us warpaint recruited in fight against cancer

By Sam Lister

WOAD, the plant that was used by Ancient Britons and Celts to make their striking blue warpaint, has been found to be one of the most potent natural sources of a compound used to fight cancer.

A team of Italian scientists found that it contains 20 times more of the cancer-fighting chemical glucobrassicin than broccoli, a plant prized for its powers to combat the disease. The researchers, led by Stefania Galletti, of the University of Bologna, found that the glucobrassicin levels could be further enhanced to nearly 65 times. They hope that the discovery may advance research of disease treatments, particularly for breast cancer.

The study, published in the Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture, showed that the compound plays a defensive role in plants, with levels increasing by 30 per cent if a leaf is damaged. Derivatives of glucobrassicin can kill some plant pests, such as insects, and also appear to have antitumour properties, and are particularly effective against breast cancer.

Glucobrassicin has shown an active role in flushing out cancer-causing chemicals linked to oestrogen; women with higher levels of this hormone are at increased risk of developing breast cancer. The Italian team hopes that by using a cheap, rich source of glucobrassicin, in-depth research can be done to study how the compound acts in the body.

.