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dictionary

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bel·la·don·na  (bĕl'ə-dŏn ə)

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n.

1. A poisonous perennial herb (*Atropa belladonna*) native to Eurasia and northern Africa and naturalized in parts of North America, having nodding, purplish-brown, bell-shaped flowers and glossy black berries. Also called *deadly nightshade*.
2. An alkaloidal extract or tincture derived from this plant and used in medicine.

[Italian : *bella*, feminine of *bello*, beautiful (from Latin *bellus*; see **deu-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + *donna*, lady; see [DONNA](#) (the plant perhaps being so called because women of Italian courts during the Renaissance are said to have used the juice of belladonna berries to make their eyes more attractive by dilating their pupils) .]



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belladonna

fruit and flower of the belladonna plant

Atropa belladonna

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