

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Allium sphaerocephalum

[Synonyms : *Allium descendens*]

ROUND-HEADED LEEK is a bulbous perennial. Native to temperate Asia, to Europe (including Britain, although rare there) and the Mediterranean, it has pink or reddish-purple flowers with protruding stamens.

It is also known as *Aglio delle bisce* (Italian), *Ail à tête ronde* (French), *Ajo de cigüeña* (Spanish), *Ajo perruno* (Spanish), Ballhead onion, Ballheaded onion, *Cebolinho* (Portuguese), *Česnek kulatohlavý* (Czech), *Czosnek glówkowaty* (Polish), *Gênottes* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), Globe garlic, *Kalklook* (Dutch), *Klotlök* (Swedish), *Kogellook* (Dutch), *Kopflauch* (German), *Kugelköpfiger Lauch* (German), *Kugellauch* (German), *Oblasti luk* (Slovenian), Round-headed garlic, *Rundköpfiger Knoblauch* (German), and *Tewm kahlani* (Maltese).

This perennial is a protected species in the wild in Britain.

Sphaerocephalum is made up of Greek *sphaero-* (ball) and *cephalo-* (head) components meaning ‘with a round head’.

It has been eaten for centuries in some parts of Siberia, particularly in the south-east around Lake Baikal.