

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

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Andromeda polifolia

[Synonyms : *Andromeda rosmarinifolia*]

MARSH ANDROMEDA is a creeping evergreen shrub. Native to northern Europe (including Britain), to the European Alps and southern and central Russia, it has tiny, red-tinged, white to pale pink flowers.

It is also known as *Androméda sivolistá* (Slovak), *Androméde* (French), *Blomris* (Swedish), Bog-rosemary, Common bog rosemary, Dwarf bog rosemary, Holy rose, *Kyhanka sivolistá* (Czech), *Lavendelheide* (Dutch), March holyrose, Marsh rosemary, *Modrzewnica zwyczajna* (Polish), Moorwort, *Rhosmari Gwyllt* (Welsh), Rosemary, *Rosling* (Swedish), *Rosmarinheide* (German), *Suokukka* (Finnish), Water andromeda, and Wild rosemary; and in flower language is said to be a symbol of self-sacrifice.

Warning – the plant is poisonous if taken in large quantities and can cause watering of the mouth, eyes, and nose, slowed pulse and low blood pressure, vomiting, lack of co-ordination, convulsions and progressive paralysis.

Polifolia is derived from Greek *polus* (many) and Latin *-folia* (leaved) components meaning ‘either many-leaved, or grey leaved like *Teucrium polium*’.

The leaves were used to make tea by the Upper Tanana North American Indians.

The plant was also used medicinally by the Mahuna tribe to treat catarrh.

Marsh andromeda yields a black dye – and in parts of Russia the leaves and twigs have been used for tanning.

It is cultivated as an ornamental.