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Artemisia campestris

[Synonyms : *Artemisia caudata*, *Oligosporus campestris*]

FIELD WORMWOOD is a perennial (less often a biennial). Native to Europe (including Britain) and to north-western Africa, it has tiny, yellowish or reddish flower heads.

It is also known as *Abrotano dei campi* (Italian), *Armoise-des-champs* (French), Beach wormwood, *Fältbynke* (Swedish), *Fältmalört* (Swedish), *Feld-Beifuss* (German), Field mugwort, Field sagewort, Field southernwood, *Llyisiau'r Corff* (Welsh), *Mark-Bynke* (Danish), Pacific wormwood, *Pelyněk ladní* (Czech), and Sagewort wormwood.

It is protected in Britain under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and it is viewed as a threatened or potentially threatened species in North America.

Campestris means of fields, meadows or open plains'.

In North America some of the Dakota Indian tribe prepared the roots as a perfume, while the Blackfoot were a little more pragmatic and used a root infusion to clean hides for tanning – and also applied it to the head to treat scalp infections.

Field wormwood had a veterinary application for the Blackfoot North American Indians who included it in treatment for their horses.

One or two Indian tribes appreciated medicinal attributes. While some reports suggest that the Shuswap Indians viewed it as a panacea they did prescribe it specifically to treat tuberculosis and colds. Like the Blackfoot tribe they also turned to it as a remedy for coughs and various skin ailments. The Blackfoot tribe themselves used it in treatments for stomach disorders, eye problems and rheumatism too. Some bowel disorders were treated with it by the Dakota tribe, and they and the Blackfoot also relied upon it for easing some female disorders.