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Astragalus danicus

[Synonyms : *Astragalus hypoglottis*]

PURPLE MILK-VETCH is a perennial. Native to Europe (including Ireland) it has clover-like violet flowers.

It is also known as *Bleachtphiseán* (Irish Gaelic), Cock's head, *Dänischer Tragant* (German), *Dansk Astragal* (Danish), *Kozinec dánský* (Czech), *Llaethwyg Mynyddig Rhuddlas* (Welsh), and *Strandvedel* (Swedish).

This plant is a protected species in the wild in Ireland under the Flora Protection Order 1987. (There are living specimens in the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin.)

Danicus means 'of or from Denmark'.

In June 1988 the Irish featured purple milk-vetch in a set of three postage stamps devoted to endangered species in that Country. This species appeared on the 46p. stamp.