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Ballota nigra

[Synonyms : *Marrubium nigrum*]

BLACK HOREHOUND is a perennial. Native to temperate Asia and Europe, it has small, dull purple (occasionally white) flowers.

It is also known as *Ballota noire* (French), *Ballotte fétide* (French), *Balota čierna* (Slovak), *Baloteo nigra* (Esperanto), Black angelica, Black hempnettle, Black hoarhound, Black stinking horehound, *Bonässla* (Swedish), *Bosyska* (Swedish), Double dumb-nettle, Dunny nettle, False hoarhound, Fetid hoarhound, Fetid horehound, Hairhound, Henbit, Horehound, *Marddanhadlen Ddu* (Welsh), *Měrnice černá* (Czech), *Meuthe-en-c'min* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), *Rød tandbæger* (Danish), *Schwarzer Andorn* (German), *Schwarznessel* (German), *Stinkende ballote* (Dutch), Stinking horehound, Stinking roger, and Wirral.

The leaves sometimes turn black after flowering. The flowers are pollinated by bees.

Nigra means 'black'.

This is one of the wild plants that cattle will normally reject.

Medicinally, the old herbalists (going back centuries) used black horehound in the treatment of bites from rabid dogs. It was also recommended for alleviating sickness during pregnancy. Today if it were not for its foul smell and taste authorities note that it could be used as a remedy for bronchitis and coughs, and as a general tonic.