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Centaurea jacea

[Synonyms : *Behen jacea*, *Calcitrapa jacea*, *Calcitrapa pratensis*, *Centaurea amara*, *Centaurea commutata*, *Centaurea consimilis*, *Centaurea decumbens*, *Centaurea hastata*, *Centaurea humifusa*, *Centaurea jacea* subsp. *jacea*, *Centaurea jacea* subsp. *jungens*, *Centaurea jacea* subsp. *lusitanica*, *Centaurea jacea* forma *majuscula*, *Centaurea jacea* forma *scopulicola*, *Centaurea jungens*, *Centaurea lacera*, *Centaurea majuscula*, *Centaurea media*, *Centaurea mollis*, *Centaurea nemophila*, *Centaurea platylepis*, *Centaurea pratensis*, *Centaurea scopulicola*, *Centaurea syrmiensis*, *Centaurea variabilis*, *Centaurea viretorum*, *Jacea pratensis*]

BROWN KNAPWEED is a perennial. Native to temperate Europe, it has thistle-like heads of reddish-purple (occasionally white) flowers.

It is also known as *Ahdekaunokki* (Finnish), Brown radiant knapweed, Brown-rayed knapweed, Brownray knapweed, *Centauree jacée* (French), *Chrpá luční* (Czech), *Chrpina luční* (Czech), *Färgklint* (Swedish), *Flockenblume* (German), Hardheads, *Jacée* (French), *Jacée des prés* (French), Knapweed, Knapwort harshweed, *Nevädza* (Slovak), *Pengaled Lwytygoch* (Welsh), Radiant cornflower, *Rödklint* (Swedish), and *Wiesen-Flockenblume* (German).

The flowers are pollinated by bees, butterflies and flies.

Medicinally, the root was once used by herbalists to stem nosebleeds and treat such ailments as sore throats and bruises. Today herbalists usually recommend the boiled root for easing catarrh.