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Circaea lutetiana

[Synonyms : *Circaea quadrisculata*, *Circaea racemosa* var. *lutetiana*]

ENCHANTER'S NIGHTSHADE is a perennial. Native to Asia, Europe and the eastern United States, it has small, white or pinkish flowers.

It is also known as Bindweed nightshade, Broadleaf enchanter's nightshade, *Čarovník obecný* (Czech), *Čarovník obyčajný* (Slovak), *Čarovník parížsky* (Slovak), *Čarovník pařížský* (Czech), *Circaea*, *Circée* (French), Dragon root, *Dunet Steffensurt* (Dansih), *Enchanteresse* (French), Enchantress's nightshade, *Gewöhnliches Hexenkraut* (German), *Grosses Hexenkraut* (German), *Heiliges Stephanskraut* (German), *Henksenkruid* (Dutch), *Herbe à la magicienne* (French), *Herbe aux sorciers* (French), *Herbe de St. Étienne* (French), *Herbe de St. Simon* (French), *Hexenkraut* (German), *Llysiau Steffan* (Welsh), Mandrake, Philtrewort, Southern broadleaf enchanter's nightshade, *Stor häxört* (Swedish), and Witch-flower; and in flower language is said to be a symbol of fascination, sorcery, spell, and witchcraft.

The flowers may be pollinated by small flies.

Lutetiana means 'of Paris' which was known as Lutetia during the time of the Roman Empire. Despite both its botanical and common names, enchanter's-nightshade appears to have neither history nor active qualities (in Britain at least) to justify them. There seems to be some suggestion that confusion may have arisen when reclassifying the mandrake (*Mandragora officinarum*) that itself was once called nightshade.