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Clematis recta

[Synonyms : *Clematis erecta*, *Clematis lathyrifolia*]

UPRIGHT VIRGIN'S BOWER is a perennial. Native to the Mediterranean it has small fragrant, pure white flowers.

It is also known as *Aufrechte Waldrebe* (German), Erect clematis, Ground virgin's bower, *Pensaskärhø* (Finnish), *Plamének přímý* (Czech), *Plamienok rovný* (Slovak), and *Styvklematis* (Swedish); and in flower language is said to be a symbol of artfulness, filial love, mental beauty, rest and safety.

Warning – the plant is poisonous and should not be taken internally. It can cause severe abdominal pain, gastro-intestinal irritation and death. The bruised leaves or flowers can cause throat and eye irritation, and skin inflammation.

Recta is Latin (straight) meaning 'erect, upright or straight'.

It has been used in homoeopathic treatments.

It is the birthday flower for 7th October.