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Dianthus gratianopolitanus

[Synonyms : *Dianthus caesius*]

CHEDDAR PINK is a mat-forming, evergreen perennial. Native to western Europe (including the English West Country) it has pale to deep rose pink flowers with a strong, clove-like fragrance.

It is also known as *Bergnejlika* (Swedish), Cliff pink, *Hvozdík grenobelský* (Czech), *Hvozdík sivý* (Czech), *Klinček* (Slovak), Mountain pink, and *Oeillet bleuâtre* (French).

It is very attractive to butterflies and day-flying moths such as the hummingbird moth.

It is a protected species in Britain at least under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Gratianopolitanus means ‘of or from Grenoble, France’.

According to some authorities the flower is said to have been referred to by Francis Bacon (1561-1626) the famous English statesman and philosopher (over whom debate continues to rage with regard to the authorship of attributed Shakespearean texts), as the ‘matted pink’. Authorities suggest that this claim could be a little suspicious if others are correct in noting that it was found by a Wiltshire man, Sam Brewer. This gentleman began life unsuccessfully as a cloth manufacturer then turned his attentions to botany and became head gardener at Badminton in the West Country, the home of the Dukes of Beaufort.