

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Erythronium dens-canis*

**DOG'S TOOTH VIOLET** is a bulbous perennial. Native to Europe and Asia it has cyclamen-like, pink to purple flowers with prominent stamens.

It is also known as *Eritronio hundodenta* (Esperanto), European dog's tooth violet, European fawn-lily, Fawn lily, *Hundszahn* (German), *Hundtandslilja* (Swedish), *Kandík psí zub* (Czech), *Kandík psozubý* (Slovak), *Rusokoiranhammas* (Finnish), and Trout lily.

*Dens-canis* is derived from Latin *denti-* (tooth) and *cani-* (dog, grey, grizzled) components meaning 'dog's tooth'.

The bulbs have been eaten with reindeer or cow's milk in Mongolia and Siberia, and the leaves boiled have provided a vegetable. In Japan the starch in the bulb has long been used for making vermicelli and cakes.

Some authorities believe that dog's tooth violet was introduced to Britain in about 1596.