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Gentiana acaulis

[Synonyms : *Ciminalis acaulis*, *Gentiana excisa*, *Gentiana gentianella*, *Gentiana kochiana*, *Gentiana latifolia*]

TRUMPET GENTIAN is an evergreen perennial. Native to the European Alps and the Pyrenees, it has deep blue (rarely white) flowers.

It is also known as Bell gentian, *Breitblättriger Enzian* (German), Gentian, *Gentiane à larges feuilles* (French), Gentianella (English, Italian), *Horec* (Slovak), *Hořec bezlodyžný* (Czech), *Hořec kochův* (Czech), *Koch'scher Enzian* (German), *Modrohořec bezlodyžný* (Czech), Stemless gentian, and *Varreton katkero* (Finnish); and in flower language is said to be a symbol of 'you are unjust'.

In Britain (and other areas) trumpet gentian is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 (it may not be picked, uprooted or destroyed).

Acaulis means 'stemless (or nearly so)'.

Trumpet gentian is the emblem of the British Alpine Garden Society.

Today the drinks industry uses the plant on a commercial basis for preparing bitters.

Medicinally, its properties are similar to those of yellow gentian (*Gentiana lutea*) with which it could be interchangeable. Thus it offers a gastric stimulant (including loss of appetite) and can be used for treating anaemia and physical exhaustion and can be given to convalescents.