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Gentianella amarella

[Synonyms : *Gentiana amarella*, *Gentiana amarella* subsp. *axillaris*, *Gentiana axillaris*, *Gentianella axillaris*]

AUTUMN GENTIAN is an annual (occasionally a biennial). Native to Europe (including Britain) it has small cream to blue-purple flowers.

It is also known as *Ängsgentiana* (Swedish), Annual gentian, Autumn dwarf gentian, Baldmoney, *Bittersöta* (Swedish), Bitterwort, *Crwynllys Chwerw* (Welsh), Felwort, Fellwort, Gentian, *Hořeček nahořklý* (Czech), *Horkkakatkerö* (Finnish), and Rose gentian.

The flowers are pollinated by bumble-bees.

Amarella is derived from Latin *amarus* (bitter) meaning ‘somewhat bitter’.

Like other related species autumn gentian was once used in Britain in brewing (before hops, *Humulus lupulus* took over).

Medicinally, it has been used as an alternative for yellow gentian (*Gentiana lutea*) or trumpet gentian (*Gentiana acaulis*). 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.