

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

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Gentianella campestris

[Synonyms : *Gentiana campestris*, *Gentiana campestris* var. *germanica*, *Gentiana campestris* var. *suecica*]

FIELD GENTIAN is an annual or biennial. Native to Europe (including Britain) it has small bluish-purple (occasionally white) flowers with hairy-fringed throats.

It is also known as *Backsöta* (Swedish), Bitterroot, *Crwynllys y Maes* (Welsh), English gentian, *Fältgentiana* (Swedish), Felwort, Field felwort, Gentian, *Gentiane des champs* (French), *Gentianelle des champs* (French), *Hořeček ladní* (Czech), Northern gentian, and *Stållört* (Swedish).

Campestris means ‘of fields, meadows or open plains’.

It is believed that field gentian was being cultivated in Britain by at least 1400.

This species has also been an ingredient in brewing beer (instead of hops, *Humulus lupulus*), particularly in Sweden.

Medicinally, herbalists used to recommend it to ease digestive disorders.