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Lycopus europaeus

[Synonyms : *Lycopus europaeus* var. *mollis*]

GIPSYWORT is a perennial. Native to western Asia and to Europe, it has tiny purple dotted, white or flesh-coloured flowers.

It is also known as Bitter bugleweed, Bugleweed, *Chanvre d'eau* (French), Common gipsyweed, Egyptian's herb, European bugleweed, *Gandamgundu* (Kashmiri), *Gemeiner Wolfstrapp* (German), Green archangel, Gipsyweed, Gipsywort, *Karbinec evropský* (Czech), *Llys y Sipsiwn* (Welsh), *Lycope d'europa* (French), Marsh hoarhound, *Strandklo* (Swedish), *Uferwolfstrapp* (German), Water bugle, Water horehound, and Wild nettle.

Europaeus means 'of or from Europe'.

Gypsies were assumed to have dyed their skin with the juice of the plant and this led to the name Gipsywort.

Gipsywort's black dye has been used for centuries for wool and silk – and still can be today.

Medicinally, the plant is little used although it was once part of treatment for certain forms of haemorrhaging and for tuberculosis. In India the leaves have been applied in poultices to cleanse wounds. (There seems to be disagreement between authorities as on the one hand some declare scant use of the plant now while others suggest that it can be an ingredient today in some proprietary medicines.)