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Matthiola bicornis

[Synonyms : *Cheiranthus longipetalus*, *Matthiola longipetala*, *Matthiola longipetala* subsp. *bicornis*, *Matthiola tristis*]

NIGHT-SCENTED STOCK is a biennial (often grown as an annual). From the south-eastern Mediterranean it has tiny sweetly scented, lilac to white or brown flowers.

It is also known as Dame's violet, Evening-scented stock, Evening stock, *Fiala dlouhoplátečná* (Czech), Grecian stocks, *Greisk lövkoja* (Swedish), *Nacht Violen* (German), Night-scented violet, and *Sarvileukoija* (Finnish).

The flowers emit a strong, sweet scent in the early evening.

Bicornis is derived from Latin *bi-* (two) and *corni-* (horn) components meaning 'two horned or with horn-like spurs'.

Medicinally, 16th Century English Elizabethan herbalists recommended the plant for treating paralysis and piles, and also for easing childbirth pains.