

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

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Mimulus moschatus

[Synonyms : *Mimulus guttatus* var. *moschatus*, *Mimulus moschatus longiflorus*, *Mimulus moschatus pallidiflorus*]

MUSK is a perennial. Native to north-western North America it has small, brown-splashed, yellow flowers.

It is also known as Eyebright, *Kejklířka pižmová* (Czech), *Klibbig gyckelblomma* (Swedish), Monkey musk, Muskflower, Musk monkeyflower, Musk plant, *Mwsg* (Welsh), *Myskgyckelblomma* (Swedish), and Viscid monkeyflower.

Moschatus means ‘musk-scented or musky’.

Miwok North American Indians boiled the young plant for a cooked vegetable.

Apparently for botanists this plant is a conundrum. In 1826 the Scottish botanist, David Douglas (1798-1834), introduced musk to Britain from North America and it gained popularity as a garden plant in the 19th Century for its penetrating scent. Since about 1914 however the fragrance has disappeared and the species everywhere (even in its native habitat) has been scentless. Various theories have been put forward to explain this phenomenon but it is understood that as yet no answer satisfactory to all professionals has been found.

Its loss of perfume has generated some modern folklore however. Musk experienced such despair at the slaughter during the First World War that it made no effort to retain its dying scent.