

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

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Ornithogalum pyrenaicum

[Synonyms : *Ornithogalum flavescens*]

SPIKED STAR-OF-BETHLEHEM is a bulbous perennial. Native to the Mediterranean it has small slightly fragrant, greenish-yellow or greenish-white flowers.

It is also known as Bath asparagus, French asparagus, Prussian asparagus, Prussian star-of-Bethlehem, Pyrenees star-of-Bethlehem, *Seren Bethlehem Hir* (Welsh), *Snědek pyrenejský* (Czech), *Spansk stjärnlök* (Swedish), Spiked ornithogalum, Star-of-Bethlehem, and Wild asparagus.

Warning – the whole plant can cause nausea and intestinal disorders.

Pyrenaicum means ‘of or from the Pyrenees (Europe)’.

In the early 20th Century spiked star-of-Bethlehem was a particularly common sight growing uncultivated around the town of Bath, in southern England. Spikes of it found for sale on local market stalls were cooked as a vegetable like asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*).