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*Pedicularis palustris*

**MARSH LOUSEWORT** is a semi-parasitic annual or biennial. Native from northern and central Europe (including Britain) to the Caucasus, it has small, reddish- or pale-pink (occasionally yellowish to white) flowers.

It is also known as *Bainne ghabhar* (Scots Gaelic), European purple lousewort, *Kärrspira* (Swedish), Lousewort, *Luhtakuusio* (Finnish), *Lus na mial* (Scots Gaelic), *Melog y Waun* (Welsh), *Moeraskartelblad* (Dutch), *Mytnik bolotnyi* (Russian), *Pédiculaire des marais* (French), Purple lousewort, Red rattle, *Suokuusio* (Finnish), Swamp lousewort, *Všivec bahenní* (Czech), and *Všivec močiarny* (Slovak).

Warning – all parts of the plant are poisonous. If taken internally they could cause gastrointestinal inflammation, diarrhoea and brain haemorrhage.

*Palustris* is derived from Latin *palus* (bog, marsh) meaning ‘of or from bogs, swamps or marshes’.

The name ‘lousewort’ is a reminder of the once held conviction that if sheep ate the plant they would become covered in lice.

It was believed that if goat’s were fed on marsh lousewort their milk yield would increase.