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Peltigera canina

ENGLISH LIVERWORT is a lichen. Native to Europe (including Britain) it has soft fronds. It is also known as Ash-coloured ground liverwort, Dog lichen, Dogtooth lichen, Ground liverwort, Land lung, Lichen, and Liverwort; and in flower language is said to be a symbol of confidence.

Canina is Latin (of a dog, grey, grizzled) meaning ‘of dogs’ with reference possibly to implied ‘commonness or worthlessness’.

Some parts of Europe have used English liverwort as a source of a rust-red dye suitable for woollens.

At some point this lichen must have been introduced to North America as it came to be known to the Nitinaht Indian tribe who used it to treat some urinary problems.

Medicinally, English liverwort used to be highly respected by herbalists for the treatment of liver diseases and hydrophobia.