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Phuopsis stylosa

[Synonyms : *Crucianella stylosa*]

CROSSWORT is a mat-forming perennial. Native to the Caucasus, eastern Turkey and north-western Iran, it has many small fragrant, pink flowers.

It is also known as *Bollmára* (Swedish), and Caucasian crosswort.

The plant's leaves exhale a musky odour, especially after rain or as evening dew falls, a smell that can carry long distances in warm weather.

Stylosa is derived from Greek *stylo-* (pillar, pole) component meaning 'part the flower's female reproductive organ is notably prominent or well-developed'.

Apparently crosswort has been cultivated as ornamental ground cover in both western Europe and North America since the mid-19th Century although to this day it has as yet gained little popularity and is seen in western Europe relatively rarely.