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Phyteuma spicatum

[Synonyms : *Rapunculum alopecuron*, *Rapunculum sylvestre*, *Rapuntium majus*]

SPIKED RAMPION is a perennial. Native to central and southern Europe (including Britain) it has greenish-white, cream or yellowish (occasionally blue or violet) flowers.

It is also known as *Ährige Rapunzel* (German), *Ährige Teufelskralle* (German), *Raiponce* (French), *Tähkämunkki* (Finnish), *Teufelskralle* (German), *Vaaleatähkämunkki* (Finnish), *Vitrapunkel* (Swedish), *Zvonečnik klasnatý* (Czech), and *Zvonovník klasnatý* (Slovak).

It is a protected plant in Britain under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. In 2011 it was reported that it was then extremely rare on the Island, as well as becoming increasingly rare on the European mainland and that efforts were being made not only to monitor the situation closely but also to try and reverse this state of affairs.

The flowers are pollinated by bees, flies, beetles, butterflies and moths.

Spicatum is derived from Latin *spica* (ear of corn, spike) meaning 'spiky, spiked or in spikes' with reference to the flower clusters.

The perennial is cultivated as an ornamental plant.

Its fleshy roots have been eaten as a boiled vegetable or raw in salad.