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Plantago coronopus

[Synonyms : *Plantago coronopus* subsp. *commutata*]

BUCK’S-HORN PLANTAIN is an annual (usually prostrate), biennial or perennial. Native to Europe (including Britain) it has tiny yellowish-brown flowers.

It is also known as *Anaij* (Arabic), Buckhorn plantain, Buckshorne, Buckthorn plantain, Capuchin’s beard, *Cône de cher* (Channel Islander-Guernsey and Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), Crowfoot plantain, Cut-leaved plantain, Earth star, Hartshorne, Herb Eve, Herb ivy, *Hirschhornsalat* (German), *Hirschhornwegerich* (German), *Jitrocel vraní nožka* (Czech), *Krähenfuss-Wegerich* (German), *Kråksutt* (Swedish), *Llwynhidydd Corn y Carw* (Welsh), *Pied-de-corbeau* (French), *Plantain corne-de-boeuf* (French), *Salib l-art* (Maltese), *Skorocel* (Slovak), Stag’s-horn plantain, and *Strandkämpar* (Swedish).

Coronopus is derived from Latin *corona* (crown) and Greek *pous* (little foot) with reference to the leaf shape.

One old British saying predicts that if the buck’s-horn plantain is dry on Holy-Rood Day (3rd May) a good harvest is assured but if it is wet the crop will be poor.

The leaves are sometimes added to salads not least in Italy.

Medicinally, in days gone by faith in its ability to cure fever used to be such that the plant was worn in an amulet around the neck. It was used to treat rabies (in humans and animals), and was thought to be a sure remedy for sore eyes.