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*Primula elatior*

[Synonyms : *Primula alpestris*, *Primula altaica*, *Primula amoena*, *Primula ambigua*, *Primula carpathica*, *Primula columnae*, *Primula cordifolia*, *Primula crenata*, *Primula danubialis*, *Primula fluggeana*, *Primula hispanica*, *Primula intricata*, *Primula leucophylla*, *Primula lofthousei*, *Primula meyeri*, *Primula montana*, *Primula oblongifolia*, *Primula pallasii*, *Primula poloninensis*, *Primula pseudoelatior*, *Primula rhododendricola*, *Primula ruprechtii*]

**OXLIP** is a perennial. Native from Europe (excluding northern Europe, Greece and Mediterranean islands, and patches of north-western Europe) to Siberia, to eastern Turkey and Iran, it has small deep yellow flowers each with orange marked throat.

It is also known as *Bláviva* (Swedish), Culver's keys, Five fingers, *Fladkravet Kodriver* (Danish), *Grande primevère* (French), *Hohe Schlüsselblume* (German), *Lundviva* (Swedish), Paigle, *Primevère élevée* (French), *Prvosienka vyšší* (Czech), *Prvosienka vyššia* (Slovak), *Schlüsselblume* (German), True cowslip, *Wald-Primel* (German), and *Waldschlüsselblume* (German).

The flowers are pollinated by bees and butterflies.

Warning – large doses can cause vomiting and diarrhoea.

*Elatior* means 'taller'.

Its underground stem and roots (not the flowers) have similar uses to those of cowslip (*Primula veris*).

The flower is mentioned in two or three of the plays of the famous English dramatist, William Shakespeare (1564-1616), including *The Winter's Tale* in which Perdita compares Spring flowers with those of other seasons and among them mentions

..... bold oxlips, and  
The crown-imperial; lilies of all kinds,  
The flower-de-luce being one. O, these I lack, ....