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Silene acaulis

[Synonyms : *Cucubalus acaulis*, *Silene exscapa*, *Silene longiscapa*]

MOSS CAMPION is a mat-forming, evergreen perennial. Native to Arctic Eurasia, central Europe and north-western North America, it has small pink to violet (rarely white) flowers.

It is also known as Catchfly, Cushion pink, Dwarf silene, *Fjällglim* (Swedish), *Fjellsmelle* (Norwegian), *Gazon rose* (French), *Gludlys Mwsogl* (Welsh), *Polsterleimkraut* (German), *Silène acaule* (French), *Silenka bezbyľová* (Slovak), *Silenka bezlodyžná* (Czech), *Stängelloses Leimkraut* (German), Stemless silene, and *Stengelloses Leimkraut* (German); and in flower language is said to be a symbol of betrayed (white), snare, and youthful love (red).

It is protected in Northern Ireland under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

Acaulis means ‘stemless (or nearly so)’.

It is said that some Icelanders eat parts of the plant boiled with butter.

Children in the North American Gosiute Indian tribe were given moss campion to disperse wind.