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*Silene suecica*

[Synonyms : *Agrostemma alpina*, *Agrostemma suecica*, *Lychnis alpina*, *Lychnis suecica*, *Steris alpina*, *Viscaria alpina*, *Viscaria helvetica*, *Viscaria suecica*, *Viscaria vulgaris* subsp. *helvetica*]

**ALPINE CATCHFLY** is a mat-forming evergreen perennial. Native to central Europe and north-eastern North America, it has small shiny, deep rose (rarely white) flowers.

It is also known as *Alpen-Pechnelke* (German), Alpine campion, Alpine lychnis, *Crotonella alpina* (Italian), *Fjällnejlika* (Swedish), *Kohoutek alpský* (Czech), Red alpine catchfly, and *Silène de Suède* (French).

The stems and leaves can turn red. The flowers are pollinated by butterflies, and long-tongued bees.

In Britain alpine catchfly is protected as it is considered to be endangered in the wild under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

*Suecica* means ‘of or from Sweden’.

The plant is recognized as a metal indicator in Norway and Finland, the former for copper and the latter for nickel.