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*Sinningia speciosa*

[Synonyms : *Gloxinia speciosa*, *Sinningia regina*]

**GLOXINIA** is a perennial. Native to Brazil it has small purple flowers.

It is also known as Brazilian gloxinia, Florist's gloxinia, *Gloxínia* (Slovak), *Gloxínie nádherná* (Czech), *Obdule* (Czech), *Siningia nádherná* (Slovak), and Wild gloxinia.

There are many colour variations in cultivated plants.

*Speciosa* is Latin (beautiful, showy, handsome, splendid).

Gloxinia is said to have been discovered in Brazil by two Englishman in the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

They were Allan Cunningham (1791-1839), a noted botanist and explorer, and James Bowie, a Kew gardener. (The latter, who was also destined to collect plants in South Africa from 1816-1820, should not be confused with his Kentucky-born namesake of the same period who invented the Bowie knife.)