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Verbascum blattaria

[Synonyms : *Verbascum cardifolium*, *Verbascum repandum*, *Verbascum rhinanthifolium*]

MOTH MULLEIN is a biennial (occasionally an annual). Native to Asia and Europe it has small lavender or brown-marked beneath, light yellow or whitish flowers with slightly fuzzy centres.

It is also known as *Divizna švábovitá* (Czech), *Divozel* (Slovak), *Gwyfynnog* (Welsh), *Molène blattaire* (French), Moth mullen, *Schaben-Königskerze* (German), Slippery mullein, *Sommarkungsljus* (Swedish), and White moth mullein.

Blattaria is derived from Latin *blatta* (cockroach) with reference to the species' repellent qualities.

Certainly in North America it was alleged in days gone by that moth mullein could repel cockroaches. The leaves were also placed between clothing as a moth repellent.

The seeds of this species were included in an experiment set up by Dr. W.J. Beal in 1879. 20% successful germination was achieved after 90 years of dormancy and some seeds were still viable after 100 years.