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Veronica spicata

[Synonyms : *Pseudolysimachium longifolium*, *Pseudolysimachion spicatum*,
Pseudolysimachion spicatum subsp. *hybridum*, *Veronica australis*, *Veronica hybrida*,
Veronica kellereri]

SPIKED SPEEDWELL is a perennial. Native to northern Europe (including Britain) and to Asia it has small bright blue flowers with projecting stamens.

It is also known as *Ähriger Ehrenpreis* (German), *Axärenpris* (Swedish), *Axveronika* (Swedish), Blue speedwell, *Hopeatädyke* (Finnish), *Silververonika* (Swedish), Speedwell, and *Tähkätädyke* (Finnish); and in flower language it is said to be a symbol of semblance.

Spiked speedwell is protected in Britain under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 (it may not be picked, uprooted or destroyed).

Many cultivated varieties (in different colours) have been derived from this species.

Spicata is derived from Latin *spica* (ear of corn, spike) meaning 'spiky, spiked or in spikes' with reference to the flowers.