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Viola canina

[Synonyms : *Viola flavicornis*, *Viola montana*]

HEATH DOG-VIOLET is a perennial. Native to Asia and Europe it has small pale blue (occasionally white) flowers with a whitish or greenish-yellow spur.

It is also known as *Aho-orvokki* (Finnish), *Ängsviol* (Swedish), Blue mice, Blue violet, Cuckoo's shoe, Cuckoo's stockings, Dog violet, *Engfiol* (Norwegian), *Fialka psi* (Czech), *Fialka psia* (Slovak), Field pansy, *Fioled y Cŵn* (Welsh), Hearts-ease, Heath violet, Hedge violet, Horse violet, *Hunds-Veilchen* (German), *Hundviol* (Swedish), Hypocrites, Meadow violet, Pig violet, Purple violet, Shoes and stockings, Snake violet, Summer violet, *Violette de chien* (French), and *Violka psi* (Czech).

Canina is Latin (of a dog, grey, grizzled) meaning 'of dogs' with reference possibly to implied 'commonness or worthlessness'.

Medicinally, its leaves and flowers were once reputed as a remedy for some skin diseases.