



Botanical Name: Gloxinia perennis

Common Name: Canterbury Bells which is often confused with members of the Campanula family.

Family: Gesneriaceae

Origin: Native to Central and Sth America from Costa Rica up to Colombia, Brazil and Peru. Found primarily in the Andes of St

America. Its exact origin is unknown. They have naturalized in many tropical locales.

Gloxinia perennis a clump forming herbaceous flowering plant that grows from scaly rhizomes. They have raceme-like flowering stems. The showy flowers bell-shaped nodding pale purple or violet-lavender, mint-scented about 4cm long. The scent droplets are produced by the flower at the base of the corolla and are collected by male bees and used to mark swarm areas and attract females. During the course of collecting the perfume the bees effect pollination of the flowers. The erect glabrous (smooth) stems can reach a height of 60-120cm long and usually with reddish mottling along its length giving rise to one of its older names "Gloxinia maculate". The leaves are opposite and glabrous.

Preferring shady and humid places and fertile moist but well-drained soil. It grows in forests, on rocks and river banks.

Propagation is either from seed or from rhizome cuttings.

Medicinal use: An infusion of the plant is applied topically as a remedy for boils.