

## YELLOW ARCHANGEL

*Lamiastrum galeobdolon* subsp. *montanum*



Yellow archangel is a member of the mint/dead nettle family. In Ireland the species is an indicator of long established woodland cover and compared to some other woodland plant species, it can tolerate a certain amount of shading. Flowering in May/June, it's a hairy perennial and grows to 30-45cm with pairs of nettle-like leaves on a square stem with whorls of yellow flowers just above the leaves, the upper lip is pale yellow and suspended just under the tip are four cups and a central spike, a mechanism to dislodge pollen on to visiting insects. The lower lip of the flower is like a tongue with orange/red markings. The flowers of Yellow archangel come into bloom just as the Bluebells are fading, replacing the blue carpet of a spring woodland with a golden-yellow one.

In Ireland its range is restricted to a handful of eastern and south eastern counties; namely Dublin, Wicklow, Carlow and Wexford.

Although classified as 'rare' the species is not protected under the current Flora Protection Order as it is still present at a sufficient number of sites to not warrant specific legal protection. However, it certainly is a species worth monitoring into the future as its long term survival at some of these sites is questionable due to potential threats as a result of land use changes and habitat loss.

If you come across this beautiful flower please record your sighting to the National Biodiversity Data Centre, here's the link:  
[http://records.biodiversityireland.ie/submit\\_records.php?fk=VascularPlantsStandard& caching=cache](http://records.biodiversityireland.ie/submit_records.php?fk=VascularPlantsStandard& caching=cache)

Photo : Paul Lane