PLANT FACT SHEET

Melilotus indicus (L.) All.

GENUS *Melilotus* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Annual yellow sweetclover

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds - flavour

CAUTION: Don't use plants dried.
The seeds are used to flavour biscuits.

DESCRIPTION

An annual herb. It is erect and without hairs. It grows 60 cm high. The leaves are alternate and made up of 3 leaflets. They are 12-30 mm long. The flowers are yellow and pea-like. They are 2 mm long. They are clustered on stalks which arise from the bases of the leaves. The fruit is a round, slightly wrinkled pod. It is 2-2.5 mm long by 1.5-1.7 mm wide. It is olive green. It has one seed. The plant has a sweet scent.

HABITAT

A Mediterranean plant. It grows on sandy soils in damp sites. It can grow in alkaline soils. Tasmania Herbarium. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

NOTES

There are about 20 Melilotus species. They are temperate and subtropical.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Ambasta, S.P. (Ed.), 2000, The Useful Plants of India. CSIR India. p 362

Blamey, M and Grey-Wilson, C., 2005, Wild flowers of the Mediterranean. A & C Black London. p 94

Dashorst, G.R.M., and Jessop, J.P., 1998, Plants of the Adelaide Plains & Hills. Botanic Gardens of Adelaide and State Herbarium. p 86

Flora of Australia Volume 49, Oceanic Islands 1, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra. (1994) p 190

Flora of Pakistan. www.eFloras.org

Fl. pedem. 1:308. 1785 "indica"

Harris, S., Buchanan, A., Connolly, A., 2001, One Hundred Islands: The Flora of the Outer Furneaux. Tas Govt. p 189

Hussey, B.M.J., Keighery, G.J., Cousens, R.D., Dodd, J., Lloyd, S.G., 1997, Western Weeds. A guide to the weeds of Western Australia. Plant Protection Society of Western Australia. p 154

Lamp, C & Collet F., 1989, Field Guide to Weeds in Australia. Inkata Press. p 175

Loughmiller, C & L., 1985, Texas Wildflowers. A Field Guide. University of Texas, Austin. p 132

Nassif, F., & Tanji, A., 2013, Gathered food plants in Morocco: The long forgotten species in Ethnobotanical Research. Life Science Leaflets 3:17-54

Paczkowska, G . & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Calatogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 440

Phillips, D.C., 1988, Wild Flowers of Bahrain. A Field Guide to Herbs, Shrubs, and Trees. Privately published. p 38

Plants for a Future database, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NG, UK. http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/

Tasmanian Herbarium Vascular Plants list p 31

Vandebroek, I. & Sanca S., Food Medicines in the Bolivian Andes. Book chapter Eating and Healing p 273

Woolmore, E et al, 2002, King Island Flora: A Field Guide. p 51

Zeven, A. C. & de West, J. M. J., 1982, Dictionary of cultivated plants and their regions of diversity. Wageningen. p 76

Zizka, G., 1991, Flowering Plants of Easter Island. Palmarum Hortus Francofurtensis

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/deb31118-9327-4ed3-aa1e-2371d5b982b2