

Botanic name : *Melilotus officinalis* (L.) Medik. -- Vorles. Churpfälz. Phys.-Öcon. Ges. 2: 382. 1787 ; isonym [*M. albus* Medik.]

Common name : Yellow sweet clover, White Sweet Cover

Family : Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to Eurasia; but introduced, naturalized and becomes invasive (earliest record of invasion 1664) in many countries including India, North American grassland, Canada, due to its i) capability to produce 14,000 to 350,000 seed which remain viable in the soil for 14 to 20 years, and some stored seed has remained viable for more than 80 years and ii) strong allelopathic effects on crop plants and native ecosystems by allelochemicals

Description : Annual, erect, 3-8' tall, lanky, branched; stems light green, round or slightly terete (i.e., furrowed on all sides), glabrous; leaves compound, alternate, trifoliate, sparsely distributed along the stems; leaflets greyish green, up to 1" long and 1/3" across, dentate along the upper margins, and oblong or oblong-ovate with a pair of small narrow stipules at the base of each trifoliate leaf's petiole. The middle leaflet has a conspicuous petiole of its own (i.e, a petiolule), while the lateral leaflets are nearly sessile; flowers white arranged in narrow racemes with a tendency to hang downward from the central stalk of the raceme, and they sometimes appear on only 1 or 2 sides; petals white; flower tubular at the base, becomes broader toward the outer edges of the petals-consist of a standard, a keel, and a 2 lateral aloe or wings; fruit-a pod

Phytochemicals: Coumarin, dicoumarol (dangerous in excess)-strong allelochemicals

Medicinal/Economic uses : Antibacterial, carminative, antispasmodic, anticoagulant, astringent, discutient, laxative, emollient, narcotic, and tonic. Used to treat wounds, inflammation, stomach ulcers, swollen joints, twisted veins, haemorrhoids, phlebitis, thrombosis, bowel complaints, varicose veins, etc. Edible-Source of nectar. Used as forage.