

Bidens pilosa

[Synonyms : *Bidens abadiae*, *Bidens abadiae* var. *abadiae*, *Bidens abadiae* var. *pilosoides*, *Bidens abortiva*, *Bidens adhaerescens*, *Bidens africana*, *Bidens alausensis*, *Bidens alba*, *Bidens alba* var. *radiata*, *Bidens arenaria*, *Bidens arenicola*, *Bidens aurantiaca*, *Bidens barrancae*, *Bidens bimucronata*, *Bidens bonplandii*, *Bidens brachycarpa*, *Bidens bullata* var. *glabrescens*, *Bidens bullata* var. *hirta*, *Bidens calcicola*, *Bidens californica*, *Bidens cannabina*, *Bidens caracasana*, *Bidens caucalidea*, *Bidens cernua* var. *anomala*, *Bidens cernua* var. *tenuis*, *Bidens chilensis*, *Bidens chilensis* var. *apifolia*, *Bidens chilensis* var. *chilensis*, *Bidens daucifolia*, *Bidens deamii*, *Bidens decussata*, *Bidens dichotoma*, *Bidens exaristata*, *Bidens fastigiata* var. *hispida*, *Bidens heterodoxa* var. *orthodoxa*, *Bidens hirta*, *Bidens hispida*, *Bidens hybrida*, *Bidens inermis*, *Bidens leucantha*, *Bidens leucantha* var. *leucantha*, *Bidens leucantha* var. *pilosa*, *Bidens leucantha* var. *sundaica*, *Bidens leucanthema* forma *discoidea*, *Bidens leucanthema* var. *pilosa*, *Bidens leucanthema* var. *sundaica*, *Bidens leucanthemus*, *Bidens leucanthus*, *Bidens minor*, *Bidens minuscula*, *Bidens montaubani*, *Bidens odorata*, *Bidens odorata* var. *calcicola*, *Bidens odorata* var. *oaxacensis*, *Bidens orendainae*, *Bidens orientalis*, *Bidens paleacea*, *Bidens pilosa* var. *alausensis*, *Bidens pilosa* var. *albiflora*, *Bidens pilosa* var. *bimucronata*, *Bidens pilosa* var. *brachycarpa*, *Bidens pilosa* var. *brevifoliata*, *Bidens pilosa* var. *calcicola*, *Bidens pilosa* var. *discoidea*, *Bidens pilosa* forma *dissecta*, *Bidens pilosa* var. *dubia*, *Bidens pilosa* var. *humilis*, *Bidens pilosa* forma *indivisa*, *Bidens pilosa* var. *leucantha*, *Bidens pilosa* var. *minor*, *Bidens pilosa* forma *monophylla*, *Bidens pilosa* forma *odorata*, *Bidens pilosa* var. *pilosa*, *Bidens pilosa* forma *pilosior*, *Bidens pilosa* forma *pinnata*, *Bidens pilosa* var. *radiata*, *Bidens pilosa* forma *simplex*, *Bidens pilosa* forma *subbiternatus*, *Bidens pilosa* forma *subsimplificifolia*, *Bidens pilosa* forma *ternata*, *Bidens pilosa* forma *triaristata*, *Bidens pilosa* forma *umbrosa*, *Bidens pilosus*, *Bidens pilosus* var. *albus*, *Bidens pinnata*, *Bidens pumila*, *Bidens ramosissima*, *Bidens reflexa*, *Bidens rosea*, *Bidens rosea* var. *calcicola*, *Bidens scandicina*, *Bidens striata*, *Bidens sundaica*, *Bidens sundaica* var. *minor*, *Bidens taquetii*, *Bidens trifoliata*, *Bidens tripartita* var. *cannabina*, *Bidens tripartita* var. *discoidea*, *Bidens tripartita* var. *hirta*, *Bidens tripartita* var. *hispida*, *Bidens tripartita* var. *indivisa*, *Bidens tripartita* var. *integra*, *Bidens tripartita* var. *integrifolia*, *Bidens tripartita* var. *latifolia*, *Bidens tripartita* var. *minima*, *Bidens tripartita* var. *minor*, *Bidens tripartita* var. *orientalis*, *Bidens tripartita* var. *pumila*, *Bidens tripartita* var. *radiata*, *Bidens tripartita* var. *tenuis*, *Bidens valparadisiaca*, *Bidens viciosoi*, *Bidens wallichii* var. *albiflora*, *Ceratocephalus pilosus*, *Coreopsis alba*, *Coreopsis corymbifolia*, *Coreopsis leucantha*, *Coreopsis leucorrhiza*, *Coreopsis multifida*, *Coreopsis multifida* var. *multifida*, *Coreopsis multifida* var. *mutica*, *Coreopsis odorata*, *Glossogyne chinensis*, *Kerneria dubia*, *Kerneria pilosa*, *Kerneria pilosa* var. *pilosa*, *Kerneria pilosa* var. *radiata*]

BLACKJACK is an annual. Native to tropical America, including the Caribbean, it has small, yellow centred, white to pale yellow or purplish flowers.

It is also known as *Aiguille* (French), Beggar-ticks, Blackjack, Bur marigold, Cobbler's peg, Donkey lover, Duppy needles, *Dvouzubec chlupatý* (Czech), *Gyinantwi* (Twi), Hairy beggarticks, *Hareuga* (Sundanese), *Herbe-z'aiguilles* (French), *Hereuga* (Indonesian),

Jarongan (Javanese), *Kancing baju* (Malay), *Margarita*, *Mucege* (Kikuyu), *Nålskåra* (Swedish), *Phutium* (Gujarati), *Pilipili* (Hawaiian), Railway daisy, Shepherd's needle, Spanish needle, Sweethearts, *Wal-te-kola* (Singhalese), *Weichhaariger Zweizahn* (German), and *Zegwi* (Creole).

Pilosa is derived from Greek *pilo-* (felt) meaning 'covered with long soft hairs'.

Not only is this a bee plant but also, in the Philippines, it has been used to make wines eg.

Tafei, *Sinitsit*. In parts of Asia the leaves have also been used as a substitute for tea.

Young leaves have been harvested and cooked like spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*) for a vegetable for human consumption in Java (now an Indonesian island) and parts of west Africa. In parts of the Philippines the flowers have been included as an ingredient in rice balls (*Oryza*).

Blackjack has been fed to pigs in South Africa and has also provided fodder generally.

Medicinally, the leaf juice has been used in the Caribbean (and west Africa and tropical Asia) as a remedy for eye inflammations, in Martinique it has been prepared as a tea taken to treat colds and some urinary difficulties, and in Africa the juice has been used on cuts and also for curing earache. The roots have been employed locally, in Kenya, to treat liver disorders, and in Malaysia an infusion of the plant has provided a treatment for coughs. In Asia also the leaves and the flower heads (rubbed on the gums) have been used to ease toothache.