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### *Bidens tripartita*

[Synonyms : *Bidens acuta*, *Bidens comosa*]

**TRIFID BUR-MARIGOLD** is an annual. Native to Europe (including Britain) it has button-like, brownish-yellow flowers with a burnt cedar-like smell.

It is also known as Bastard agrimony, Bastard hemp, *Brunskära* (Swedish), Bur-marigold, Burr marigold, *Canapa acquatica* (Italian), *Chanvre aquatique* (French), *Cornuet* (French), Double tooth, *Dreiteiliger Zweizahn* (German), *Dvouzubec trojdílný* (Czech), *Eupatoria acquatica* (Italian), *Fliget-brøndsøl* (Danish), *Graban Deiran* (Welsh), Hepatorium, Nodding marigold, Spanish needles, *Su keneviri* (Turkish), *Sumpfwreizahn* (German), Three-lobe beggarticks, Tripartite bur-marigold, *Wasser hanf* (German), Water hemp, and Water agrimony; and in flower language is said to be a symbol of prediction.

The tiny bristly fruit will cling to anything they touch.

*Tripartita* is made up of Latin *tri-* (three) and *parti* (part, portion, piece, share) components meaning ‘three-parted’.

It is not popular with fishermen if allowed to fruit, as fish can suffer festering wounds from the barbed bristles if these get caught in their gills.

Trifid bur-marigold was once used in veterinary medicine, and in continental Europe it provided an unreliable yellow dye.

Medicinally, it was once employed by local herbalists, especially for treating fever and gout.

Now it is used only occasionally in the treatment of haemorrhaging although, in what was the USSR, the plant has recently been part of remedies for treating baldness. Chinese medicine uses the plant to treat dysentery and skin complaints.