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Brassica oleracea var. *gongylodes*

[Synonyms : *Brassica oleracea* var. *caulo-rapa*]

KOHLRABI (English, German) is a biennial. It has small, yellow flowers.

It is also known as *Chou-rave* (French), *Gidra* (Maltese), *Kai lan tau* (Chinese), *Kålrabbi* (Swedish), *Knol-kohl*, *Kyssäkaali* (Finnish), *Qarnah bahār* (Arabic), Stem cabbage, and Turnip cabbage.

There are several varieties and these can be green, white or purple-skinned.

Oleracea means ‘vegetable- or cooking herb-like or of the herb-, vegetable or kitchen garden’.). *Gongylodes* is derived from Greek *gongylo-* (round, knobbly) component meaning ‘swollen, roundish or knobbly’ with reference to the stem.

Kohlrabi’s popularity has centred on countries eastwards from Germany, including Israel.

Some time during the 6th to 9th Centuries ie. under the T’ang dynasty, kohlrabi reached China. In India, Hindus and Muslims absorbed it into their diets.

The Chinese (no less than the Europeans until more recent times) viewed it primarily as of medicinal value.