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### *Medicago polymorpha*

[Synonyms : *Medicago apiculata*, *Medicago denticulata*, *Medicago denticulata* var. *vulgaris*, *Medicago gracillima*, *Medicago hispida*, *Medicago hispida* var. *apiculata*, *Medicago hispida* var. *confinis*, *Medicago hispida* var. *denticulata*, *Medicago hispida* var. *gracillima*, *Medicago lappacea*, *Medicago nigra*, *Medicago polycarpa*, *Medicago polymorpha* var. *brevispina*, *Medicago polymorpha* var. *ciliaris*, *Medicago polymorpha* var. *polygyra*, *Medicago polymorpha* var. *tricycla*, *Medicago polymorpha* var. *vulgaris*]

**TOOTHED MEDICK** is a prostrate annual or biennial. Native to the Mediterranean it has tiny pea-like yellow flowers.

It is also known as Bur clover, Bur medic, California bur clover, *Carrapiço* (Portuguese), *Carretones* (Spanish), *Erba medica polimorfa* (Italian), *Gemeiner Schneckenklee* (German), *Growwe Medicago* (Afrikaans), Hairy medic, Hairy medick, *Kroklusern* (Swedish), *Lucerna* (Slovak), *Luzerne polymorphe* (French), *Maglys Eiddiog* (Welsh), *Nefeb* (Maltese), Rough medic, *Tagglucern* (Swedish), *Tagglusern* (Swedish), *Tolice mnohotvará* (Czech), and Toothed bur-clover.

Toothed medick is considered to be threatened in the wild in Britain.

*Polymorpha* is derived from Greek *poly-* (many) and *-morpha* (shape) components meaning ‘in many forms or variable’.

The North American Cahuilla Indians ate a porridge-like meal made from the dried ground seeds.

On the other hand the Mendocino Indian tribe believed that the seeds and leaves were only suitable as forage for their sheep.

Locally particularly in China the leaves, young shoots and the flowers are eaten raw or cooked as a vegetable.

Archaeologists have found viable seeds in 200 year old adobe (sun-dried bricks) in California and Mexico.

Today toothed medick is viewed as a noxious weed in Arizona in the United States.

The plant has been cultivated as a green manure.