

Melilotus indicus

[Synonyms : *Melilotus indica*, *Melilotus melilotus-indicus*, *Melilotus parviflora*]

SMALL MELILOT is an annual. Native to western Asia and to the Mediterranean it has pale yellow flowers.

It is also known as *Anafe-menor* (Portuguese), Annual melilot, Annual yellow sweetclover, Bokhara clover, *Dvärgsötväppling* (Swedish), *Eenjarige Geelstinkklawer* (Afrikaans), *Gwydro Blodau Bach* (Welsh), Indian clover, Indian melilot, Indian sweetclover, *Intianmesikkä* (Finnish), King Island melilot, *Kleinblütiger Steinkle* (German), *Komonice indická* (Czech), *Mélilot à petites fleurs* (French), *Meliloto d'India* (Italian), *Qurt* (Arabic), *Senji* (Hindi), Small-flowered melilot, Sour clover, Sour sweet clover, Sweet clover, *Trébol de olor* (Spanish), and Yellow sweet clover.

The plant can waft a pleasant smell on hot days.

The flowers are pollinated by bees.

Warning – large doses of the dried plant are said to be able to cause nausea, vomiting, vertigo and depressed heart action and to inhibit blood clotting.

Indicus means ‘of or from India or the East Indies or the Far East’.

In the Middle East and parts of Asia, such as Iraq and northern India small melilot is cultivated for fodder – and in the latter it is also used as a green manure.

The North American Tohono O’Odham Indians used the plant for target shooting, while the Isleta put it in their bedding as a bedbug repellent.

It offered medicinal properties for a few North American tribes. Some of the Pomo took a plant decoction as a strong laxative

The leaves have been valued locally as an insect repellent.

Medicinally, it has been used locally to treat some bowel disorders, as well as diarrhoea in children.