

Sedum acre

[Synonyms : *Sedum elrodi*, *Sedum kvajinae*, *Sedum maweanum*, *Sedum minimum*, *Sedum neglectum*]

BITING STONECROP is a mat-forming succulent, evergreen perennial. Native to Europe (including Britain) and to the Mediterranean and Asia, it has small deep yellow flowers. It is also known as Bird's bread, *Borraccina* (Italian), *Bywydog Boeth* (Welsh), Candles, Common stonecrop, Country pepper, Creeping Charlie, Creeping Jack, Creeping Jenny, Creeping sailor, Creeping Tom, Crowdy kit-o'-the-wall, *Fabaria ardente* (Italian), French moss, Ginger, Gold chain, Golden carpet, Golden dust, Golden moss, Golden stonecrop, Goldmoss stonecrop, *Grenmil* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), *Gul fetknopp* (Swedish), Hundreds-and-thousands, Jack-of-the-buttery, *Jaune pain à crapauds* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), *Katkerä maksaruoho* (Finnish), Kit-of-the-wall, Little houseleak, Little houseleek, London pride, Love-and-tangle, Love entangled, Love-in-a-tangle, *Maverpfeffer* (German), Money, Moss, Mossy stonecrop, Mountain moss, Mousetail, *Muurpeper* (Dutch), *Orpin brûlant* (French), *Pain d'oiseau* (French), Pepper crop, Pickpocket, Pig's ears, Plenty, *Poivre de muraille* (French), Poor man's pepper, Prickett, Prick madam, Queen's cushion, Rockcrop, Rock-plant, *Rozchodník ostrý* (Czech), *Rozchodník prudký* (Slovak), *Scharfe-Fetthenne* (German), *Scharfer Mauerpfeffer* (German), *Sedum*, *Sédum* (French), Star, Stonecrop, Tangle tail, Treasure of love, *Trique madame* (French), *Uña de gato* (Spanish), *Vermicularia* (Portuguese), Wall ginger, Wall-grass, Wall-moss, Wall paper, Wall-pepper, Wallwort, Welcome-home-husband, Welcome home husband however so drunk, Welcome-home-husband-though-never-so-drunk, and Yellow stonecrop; and in flower language is said to be a symbol of tranquility.

Warning – biting stonecrop should not be used internally as it can cause headaches, dizziness and nausea. External use can cause inflammation and blistering.

Acre is derived from Latin *acer* (keen, pungent, sharp, cutting) meaning 'sharp or bitter-tasting'.

Although ancient writers warned against the internal use of biting stonecrop 16th Century remedies included it for the treatment (internally and externally) of intestinal worms and bleeding. Pliny (23-79) the celebrated Roman natural historian, suggested that biting stonecrop wrapped in a black cloth and placed (unknown to the patient) under his pillow would induce sleep. It has been boiled in beer for treating fevers, fluid retention and poisoning and it was considered a remedy for scurvy and some forms of tuberculosis. Its possible use in the treatment of epilepsy was recognized in 1830 but as it can cause blistering it was rarely employed in this capacity. Today biting stonecrop is not used internally (except possibly in homoeopathic remedies) and is treated with great care if employed for external remedies.