

***Melilotus albus* Medik. (Fabaceae)**

Seed.

General shape: ovoid, compressed

Normal size: 1.5-1.8 mm L x 1.2-1.5 mm W x 0.8-0.9 mm D

Color: yellowish-green to orange-brown

Texture: smooth, reticulate under magnification, dull

Distinguishing features: the seed has two convex, furrowed sides. The furrow is lighter, wide and goes parallel vertically for two thirds of the length of the seed. The hilum is small, circular, located in the bay of the furrow about one third of the cotyledons.

Embryo: curved, accumbent; cotyledons are big and thick.

Pod: monosperm, obovate, brown, coarsely and irregularly reticulate-ridged or wrinkled

Note: Seeds of *M. officinalis* are very similar but a proportion of these are mottled with purple.



Seeds of *Melilotus albus*



Seeds under magnification

Images by SNES-GEVES