

# Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

## B. Legumes

### 9. Annual Medics

#### a. *Medicago truncatula* Gaertn. var. *truncatula* (barrel medic)

##### cv. Ghor

Reg. No. B-9a-6

Registered June 1972

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##### Origin

The original seed was collected in 1976 by E.T. Bailey, CSIRO, Western Australia, near the orphanage about one mile east of Jericho in Jordan. It was given the number J6, and later the C.P.I. number 53304. Initial seed increase and evaluation were commenced in Western Australia in 1969 by E.T. Bailey and in South Australia in 1970 by E.J. Crawford. Submitted for registration by Mr E.T. Bailey, formerly of CSIRO Western Australia, and recommended by the Western Australia Herbage Plant Liaison Committee. Registered July 1972.

##### Morphological description

Ghor is a prostrate plant with sparse primary and dense secondary branching, the branches having long internodes. The foliage is moderately coarse, the obovate leaflets showing a characteristic yellow blotch with a brown edging in the upper part of the leaflet. The stems, stipules, petioles and peduncles are green and moderately hairy. The peduncles are few (usually 2) flowered and about as long as the petioles. The flowers are bright yellow and less than twice as long as the fine-lobed densely hairy calyx. The pods are large, woody, and with pronounced straight appressed spines and with 4-6 anticlockwise coils. The seed is large, approximately 190/g compared with approximately 265/g in cv. Cyprus. In Ghor approximately 23% of the pod weight is seed, the corresponding figure for Cyprus being 28% (1).

##### Agronomic characters

The seedlings are vigorous. Flowering commences about 8 weeks after germinating, a late April germination flowering more than 3 weeks earlier than Cyprus, while a mid-May germination flowers two weeks earlier than Cyprus (1).

In South Australia, Ghor exhibited a 12-day longer maturation period in 1969 with a short spring, and a 17day longer maturation period in 1970 with a longer spring than Cyprus. Under irrigation for seed production the maturation period of Ghor was considerably extended, which is in direct contrast to the performance of Cyprus. It could have an ability to make more efficient utilisation of late spring rainfall as compared to Cyprus (1).

In preliminary trials at Lake Grace, Western Australia, in 1970 it showed promise when compared with other cultivars. The results are shown in Table 7.

In South Australia Ghor out-yielded Cyprus at each three-weekly visual herbage production assessment in 1969, 1970 and 1971, and out-yield both Hannaford and Jemalong until the onset of senescence in Ghor. It also out-yielded Harbinger strand medic (1). It appears well adapted to low rainfall areas where Cyprus is grown and could possibly replace the cultivar because of better winter production, excellent ability to recover, even when cut while flowering, and an ability to grow longer than Cyprus if spring conditions are favourable.

**Table 7.** Dry Matter and seed yield (kg/ha), Lake Grace 1970

Winter Cut 14/8/70	Harvest (Recovery) Yield	Seed Yield
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Cyprus	38	4013	589
Cyfield	164	5787	595
Ghor	478	4480	502
Tornafield	112	4293	649

**Reference**

1. Crawford, E.J. (1971). Personal communication. S.A. Dep. Agric., Adelaide.