

# Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

## B. Legumes

### 1. Clover

#### *Trifolium hirtum* All. (rose clover) cv. Olympus

Reg. No. B-1e-3

Registered September 1967

*Published in the 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. of the Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars 1972.*

#### **Origin** (1,2)

A selection made in 1960 by E.T. Bailey, CSIRO Division of Plant Industry, W.A. Regional Laboratory, Nedlands, W.A., from C.P.I.13949, collected by C.M. Donald and J.F. Miles of CSIRO, in 1951, from naturally occurring plants some 45 km from Micosia on the Nicosia-Troodos road in Cyprus. Bailey made the selection from C.P.I.13949 (which had provisionally been called Troodos) on leaf markings to make certification easier. First certified by Western Australian Department of Agriculture in 1966. Submitted by the CSIRO Western Australian Regional Laboratory, and recommended for registration by the Western Australian Herbage Plant Liaison Committee. Registered September 1967.

#### **Morphological description** (1)

Habit of growth is prostrate compared with Kondinin. It also differs from Kondinin in having small leaflets and short petioles and stem internodes. The leaflets are pale green and have a very rounded, light-coloured crescent about half-way up the leaflet, and often a pale spot or crescent where the leaflet joins the petiole; there is no dark line or point above the crescent. Seeds are more globular than Kondinin and average 335,000 per kg.

#### **Agronomic characters** (1,2)

Flowering occurs mid to late September and is thus approximately 10 days earlier than Kondinin but almost 10 days later than Sirint. In trials at various sites in the wheat belt of Western Australia it has, when not cut or grazed, yielded more dry matter on heavy land than Geraldton sub clover but less than Cyprus barrel medic and Kondinin, Hykon, and Sirint; while on light soils it has given higher yields than Cyprus as well as Geraldton, though again not performing as well as Sirint, Hykon, or Kondinin. Under frequent cutting, however, it has outyielded Cyprus and Geraldton on both heavy soils at Lake Grace (355 mm) and light soils at Carnamah (406 mm); and under these conditions has yielded better than Kondinin, Hykon, and Sirint and almost as well as Yamina cupped clover. It has a high seed to total forage ratio.

The seed heads tend to break up more readily than those of other rose clover cultivars. Hardseededness is similar to cv. Kondinin.

#### **References**

1. Bailey, E.T. (1966). Rose clover; description, use, and varietal differences in rose clover in Western Australia. *J. Agric. West. Aust.* **7**(4th Ser.), 170-5.
2. Bailey, E.T., and Gayfer, N.B. (1968). The history and characteristics of Troodos and Olympus rose clover. *J. Agric. West. Aust.* **9**(4th Ser.) 372-3.