

# Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

## B. Legumes

### 9. Annual Medics

#### *e. Medicago scutellata* (L.) Mill. (snail medic)

##### cv. Sava

Reg. No. B-9f-3

Registered April 1980

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##### Origin (6, 7, 9)

Introduced by M.J. Mathison of the South Australian Department of Agriculture in 1971 from the N.I. Vavilov Institute of Plant Industry, Leningrad (accession No. 22167), which introduced it from the German Democratic Republic in 1955. Ultimate origin unknown (7).

Selected by M.J. Mathison and B.C Bull from field experiments as superior to commercial snail medic for seed yield, herbage productivity and regeneration at Northfield, Mundoorra and Belalie, S.A. Independently selected by them for higher tolerance to adult sitona weevil (*Sitona humeralis* Steph.) than other medic cultivars in greenhouse screening. Subsequently found to have good tolerance to the spotted alfalfa aphid (*Therioaphis trifolii* (Monell) f. *maculata*) (6) and the blue green aphid (*Acythrosiphon kondoi* Shinji) (9).

Submitted by the South Australian Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and recommended for registration by the South Australian Herbage Plant Liaison Committee. Breeders' seed will be maintained by the South Australian Department of Agriculture. Registered April 1980.

##### Morphological description (1, 3, 4, 8)

Morphology is similar to Robinson, Sair, and other commercial snail medics, except for leaflets and pods. Leaflets of Sava lack the brown or purple flecks found in young plants of the others. Pods contain 6-7 coils, rarely 8.

##### Agronomic characters (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10)

Sava requires a slightly higher rainfall than Robinson and Sair, viz. 375-550 mm and regenerates better than them in higher rainfall areas, where a greater proportion of hardseed softens and germinates promptly after one summer. In lower rainfall areas regeneration is sometimes more sparse owing to physiological seed dormancy delaying germination of the softened seeds (5). Flowering time varies between seasons at Parafield, from 5 days earlier to 1 or 2 days later than commercial snail, Robinson and Sair. Maturity of Sava varies from equal to several days earlier than these other snail medics which are a little earlier than Hannaford barrel medic (3).

Sava has tolerances similar to those of Robinson and Sair to damage by red-legged earth mite (*Halotydeus destructor* Tucker) and lucerne flea (*Sminthurus viridis* L.) (6).

There is some tolerance to sitona weevil adults at the cotyledon stage. Herbage production of young seedlings beyond the second trifoliolate leaf stage, under attack by adult sitona weevils, is usually considerably better than Sair snail medic and all other annual medic cultivars (6).

Sava, like Sair, has good tolerance to both the blue green aphid and the spotted alfalfa aphid in the vegetative stage (6, 8) and is a marginally poorer host for BGA (6).

In field conditions, Sava was free of cowpea aphid (*Aphis craccivora* Koch), whereas Sair carried large numbers (10).

Green pods of Sava were only superficially attacked by *Heliothis* sp. larvae in field plots where larvae destroyed all green seed of commercial snail medics (5).

In several regenerated fields plots in South Australia during 1979, which were under severe attack by sitona weevil and spotted alfalfa aphids, Sava was one of the very few survivors and was clearly better than Sair. In these trials, barrel strand and disc medic cultivars were eliminated (5).

Sava is readily grazed by sheep (6) and mature seedpods are low in coumestrol and 4-methoxy-coumestrol (2).

## References

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