

The *Trifolium Melilotus officinatis* of Linnæus's Species Plantarum included three well defined forms that are now regarded by botanists as well-established species, viz :

1. The type, or normal form, which appears to have been long known in France and other parts of Southern Europe, although a comparatively recent addition to the British Flora, having been found in England for the first time about the year 1849 or 1850, and shortly afterwards in Scotland. It has been known to English botanists hitherto, mostly, as *M. arvensis*, Wallroth, but now appears in Sir Joseph Hooker's Student's Flora (edition of 1884) as *M. OFFICINALIS Desrousseaux*, although *not* the *officinalis* of Willdenow, so commonly quoted by authors.

2. Linnæus's variety *b*, variously named by authors *Trifolium Germanicum*, Smith ; *M. vulgaris*, Willdenow ; *M. leucantha*, Koch ; *M. ALBA*, Desrousseaux.

3. The variety *g*, which has been recorded as a native and not rare British plant ever since the time of Ray, and which was known during the latter part of last and early part of the present century as *Trifolium officinale*, Hull, subsequently as *Melilotus officinalis*, Willdenow, and is now recognized as *M. ALTISSIMA*, Thuillier.

Of the above mentioned three species, two have hitherto been credited to Canada, viz : *M. alba*, Desr., and *M. altissima*, Thuillier. Respecting *M. alba* there is no question. It is a well known plant. It appears to be doubtful, however, whether *M. altissima* is established as a Canadian species, although it is so very common in Britain. All the Canadian yellow-flowered specimens of *Melilotus* that have reached me, so far, belong to *M. officinalis*, Desr., not *M. officinalis* Willd. Whether the United States plant is *M. altissima* or *M. officinalis*, I have not ascertained. Possibly we may have both species on this continent, but the only certainty in the matter is that we do not as yet know the distribution of either.

1. MELILOTUS OFFICINALIS, Desrousseaux.

This species, although, like the others, variable in size, habit and duration, being sometimes an annual, but usually a