



MEDICAGO LUPULINA

Three varieties of *M. lupulina* L. can be recognised, based on the fruiting pods:

- (i) var. *lupulina* – Pods not tubercled, and either \pm glabrous (=forma *lupulina*) or clothed with appressed, eglandular hairs (=forma *eriocarpa* (Rouy & Fouc.) C. E. Salmon).
- (ii) var. *scabra* S. F. Gray – Pods rough, tuberculed, clothed with simple, eglandular hairs
- (iii) var. *glandulosa* Mert & Koch – Pods with jointed, yellowish, glandular hairs

Little is known of their distributions. The different types of hair may be a defence against insect herbivory.

Author D. E. Allen, February 1988