

Anacyclus clavatus (Desf.) Pers.
Asters



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■ **Morphological description**

An annual, polymorphous, green or whitish plant, 20-50 cm. high, with erect or decumbent stems and fairly divaricated branches. The leaves are simple and bipinnate; the flowers are heterogamous, gathered in rayed terminal capitula 2.5-3 cm. in diameter. The flowers in the ray are female and those in the disk hermaphrodite. The bracts of the involucre are not dilated at the tip but oval, with blunt tips. The ligules are white, reflexed after flowering, and sometimes absent. The fruits are small, tightly packed cuneiform achenes. The peripheral achenes have a wide wing tipped by a rounded lobe, and the central achenes have no wings and are merely margined. Flowering and fruiting take place from March to July.

■ **Geographical distribution**

Local: Very widespread in Tunisia: Kroumirie, Medjerda valley, the north-east, Cap Bon, the Tunisian central ridge and central Tunisia.

Regional: Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.

Global: The Mediterranean.

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Anacyclus tomentosus DC; *Anacyclus pubescens* Rchb.; *Anthemis clavata* Desf.; *Anthemis tomentosa* Couan; *Chamaemelum tomentosum* All.

Arabic: krâa djaja, iqhouana

French: anacyclus, anacycle en masseue

English: anacyclus

■ **Ecology**

Anacyclus clavatus has a wide ecological range but is absent from the rainiest regions; it grows in fields, waysides and fallow ground, mainly on deep or superficial silty soil and chernozem, but also on other types of soil.

■ **Status, conservation and culture**

Anacyclus clavatus is not grown in Tunisia but is picked wild. It is a species seen as a self-propagating plant that is injurious to annual and perennial crops.

■ **Part used**

The aerial part.

■ **Traditional medicine**

Gastric ulcer: every day for two weeks take by mouth 100 gr. of young *Anacyclus clavatus* stems.

■ **References**

- Le Floc'h E. ; 1983 : Contribution à une étude ethnobotanique de la flore tunisienne. Programme Flore et Végétation tunisienne. Min. de l'En. Sup. et de la Rech. Sci. 387 p.
- Pottier Alapetite G. ; 1981 : Flore de la Tunisie. Angiospermes- Dicotylédones, Gamopétales. Programme flore et végétation tunisiennes. 651-1189p.