

pg 1  
(69)

(pg 95  
(Yarrow  
~~Butter-and-eggs~~)

Notes collected beg. July 4/77 - f. <W> Oct 5/77 blossomed July 4

*Achillea millefolium* (common yarrow)

peren compositae Common Weeds of U.S.: very variable  
[thistle f]

reprodg. by seeds + underground rootstocks, p. 362

stem simple 3-10 dm. H. web hairy to smooth,

fig. 178 loosely pubescent dissected fine segments,

compound corymb, flattish topped 0.6-3 dm. W. Involucre

slenderly cylindric, pale scales, rarely dark-margined,

short oblong ligules whitish passing to pink or deep

rose-purple 1.5-2.5 mm L., receptacle greatly prolonged in

fruit, achene tiny, flat, oblong, white or gray, mature

disk flowers gradually exerted. June-September (Oct

Pt. J) persists mainly on thin soil, not common in cult.

via fields. Natzd via Eu. thruout all U.S. except S. Texas +

asia? SW. ~~Plant has~~ Offensive odor, bitter taste. Male flowers

wider than female, app same H as drawn to scale

LZ: (~~mes~~ most of this desc. needs a microscope to ck)

Illust. Field flowers p. 12 "wholesomely aromatic" cure

Taylor p.? for nosebleed, ague, baldness, love charm"

'strong beer in Sweden' June-November (ditto Pt. J). Flwrs

ours mostly heads, few rays - 2 in or less across incl. 3-5 white

white or pinkish rays. Lvs. fringy + fern-like.

(cf, yellowish Named for Achilles supposedly to cure / heal

Taylor pp 5-6 his wounds, Millefolium, 'milfoil'

scarcely 2 ft H. max. (ours 6 <in> max) of 80 species

names only eleven of "garden importance" mostly

often. 'Milfoil' Eurasian July, Illust. Ptarmica,

'sneezewort' double<sup>?</sup>-flowered, hardy peren.

'parent of planted var. herb 1-2 ft H, toothed

lance shaped leaves, flower heads white not double

loose open clusters N. temp zone summer, useful

for cutting. Millefolium (old generic name

Gray 1514-5 Achillèa ^ L. Yarrow. Herbe-à-dindes / (Que)

A. Ptarmica (Gk causing to

sneeze sneezewort (Taylor).

A. Millefolium polymorphous species sadly

needs well-balanced study, its intricacies

not understood (1950 - 8th ed. © by Pres. + Fellows

of Harvard College) Herbe-à-dindes = turkey-

hen (use #3 / see p.2): cf pulchellem #68, transl. achillea

(New Eng ea (ear)

Wordsworth. 'Yarrow unvisited,' Memorials of a

Tour in Scotland 1803 'lintwhite' i.e. Eu. linnet,

small finch; harrow pulverizes, smooths the soil (there, here unharrowed); note ed. note re ballad by Hamilton beg. Busk ye, buck ye . . my winsome marrow . . i.e. make ready (get dressed / dress up go (over) get going

\* \* \*

p 2

(pg 96

(69) Wordsworth (cont) (Yarrow)

“bottoms” (riverbeds)

holm = low ground river bank (AS. hill, island, (higher) sea) [~~not at~~ not the expected holm oak, holly

‘Yarrow Visited’ w. 1814 pubd 1815:

l. 18-19 pearly whiteness . . round

the rising sun diffused; l. 47 grace . .

forest charms decayed; l. 73 see . . not

by sight alone ↓ Notes for 3rd abbr. list

Horace [via Johnson Pope] IV ii, 11-12; re- Pindar, numeris [W.C. vol II, 327] - lege solutis, lax performances

[no such for J. of Pope’s St. Cec’s Day “commonplaces” etc]

w. Turkey-hen verso incl. Hamilton ballad -

e.g. herb-ah-dand leg-it [dand (clipped for dandy = first-rate, excellent, Berrey + Van Den

Bark Am. Thes Slang 1966]. Horace Satires II vii / 27-8

absentem rusticus urbem | tollis ad astra levis

rusticated extol the faint town trans. toles (tolls = entice / ~~extols~~ astral ~~to~~ eaves)

Virgil Georgics III 94 (Saturn fleeing

Rhea, metam. horse) ~~hin~~ hinnitu fugiens

whinnied to few gains III 275ff (? - note

referring to Aristotle’s legend of Crete (mirabile

dictu trans. miraculous ditty ?) mares’ heat

swims rivers, scales mtns to the sea.

Aeneid III 486 vade <what day> o fēlix nate pietate;

IV 23 adgnosco veteris <wetter is> vestigia flammae

→ know vestiges of the old flame

translit: knows(co) weathers vestigial”

Pencil draft begun Wed Oct 5/77 - f. Fri Oct 7/77

{vertical:}  
(xxx)  
(all notes  
abb. / from  
list  
3rd list)

odd / nose  
cow

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

\* \* \*

(69) p. 3 (Yarrow) (p.97)  
Ink draft Fri Oct 7/77

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8



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**Sources**

Taylor, *Taylor’s Encyclopedia of Gardening*, **Achillea**  
 Gray, *Gray’s Manual of Botany*, **Compositae** (Composite Family) > **Achillèa** (1514-1515)  
 Everett, *Field Flowers*, **Yarrow, or Milfoil** (12)  
*Common Weeds of the U.S.*, **Common Yarrow**

\**Century Dictionary (CD)*, **mirabile dictu**  
*Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, **harrow, holm, linnet, lintwhite**  
 Berrey & Van den Bark, *American Thesaurus of Slang*, **Excellent; First-Rate:** {includes} **dand, dandy**  
 (28)

Horace, *Satires* II. vii. 28-29  
 Virgil, *Georgics* III. 94, 266-294  
*Aeneid* III. 480; IV. 23  
 Samuel Johnson, *Lives of English Poets*, “Pope”  
 William Wordsworth. “Yarrow Unvisited,” “Yarrow Visited”

line 1: **Bottoms milfoil yarrow holm seas**  
 line 2: **herb-ah-dand turkey hen leg it**  
 line 3: **toles odd astral eaves rust**  
 line 4: **sticks urban miraculous ditty whinnied**  
 line 5: **to few gains coastfoamed mares**  
 line 6: **unharrowed ptarmica fern-daisy centers few**  
 line 7: **rays grace forest charms arch**  
 line 8: **chill ear knows weathers flame**

Oct. 5-7/77

line 1: **Bottoms milfoil yarrow holm seas**

*Webster's Dictionary*, **holm**, *n.* [AS. *holen* holly.] **a** The holm oak. **b** *Now Dial.* The holly.

**holm**, *n.* [AS., hill, island, (high) sea.] **1.** An islet in a river or lake or near the mainland; —common in English place names. **2.** Eng. Low, flat land near a river; bottoms.

Taylor, **Achillea** (a-kil-lee'a). Yarrow. A large genus of perennial herbs, family Compositae, mostly from the north temperate zone and a few grown for their white, pink, or yellow flowers. Leaves toothed or parted or divided, and in some species finely dissected, often aromatic when crushed. Flower heads small, but usually numerous, in often flat-topped clusters. Of the 80 species only the following are of any hort. importance. (Named for Achilles who is supposed to have used some species to heal his wounds.)

**A. Millefolium**. Common yarrow, called also milfoil. Stem leafy, scarcely 2 ft. high. Leaves finely dissected. Flowers white. Rarely cut. and in fact a weed (*see* list at WEEDS).

William Wordsworth, "Yarrow Unvisited," lines 33-34, 64 (last line):

'Oh! green,' said I, 'are Yarrow's holms,  
 And sweet is Yarrow flowing.  
 {...}

the bonny holms of Yarrow.'

line 2: **herb-ah-dand turkey hen leg it**

Gray, **FAM. 168 COMPÓSITAE** (Composite Family) > **69. Achillèa** L. YARROW. HERBE-À-DINDES {*dinde*, French for turkey} (Que.) (1514).

Berrey & Van den Bark, *American Thesaurus of Slang*, **QUALITY > 29. Goodness.—n.** > mod. 4. EXCELLENT; FIRST-RATE. {includes} dand, dandy (28).

Samuel Johnson, *Lives of Poets*, "Pope": It may be alleged that Pindar is said by Horace to have written "numeris lege solutis," but as no such lax performances have been transmitted to us, the meaning of that expression cannot be fixed {...}. {NBk (3rd abbreviated list p. 5)}.

Wordsworth, "Yarrow Unvisited" {Wordsworth's headnote:} See the various Poems the scene of which is laid upon the banks of the Yarrow; in particular, the exquisite Ballad of Hamilton beginning—

'Busk ye, busk ye, my bonny, bonny Bride,  
 Busk ye, busk ye, my winsome Marrow!'

line 3: **toles odd astral eaves rust**

Horace, *Satires* II. vii, lines 28-29 {NBk dated 6/12/76 (page 20)}:

absentem rusticus urbem  
tollis ad astra levis.

(in the country, you extol to the stars the distant town)

**toles odd astral eaves rust / sticks urban** < tollis ad astra levis + rusticus urbem

line 4: **sticks urban miraculous ditty whinnied**

See Horace line 3.

Virgil, *Georgics* III, lines 266-294 {a long passage on the love frenzy of mares, which drives them over mountains and across rivers to cliffs overlooking the sea, where “without any wedlock, pregnant with the wind (a wondrous tale! {mirabile dictu}) they flee over rocks and crags and lowly dales...”} {NBk (3rd abbreviated list p. 5)}.

\*CD, **mirabile dictu** [L.: *mirabile*, wonderful; *dictu*, abl. supine of *dicere*, say: see *mirable* and *diction*.] Wonderful to relate.

Virgil, *Georgics* III, line 94 {NBk (3rd abbreviated list p. 5)}:

Pelion hinnitu fugiens implevit acuto.

(with shrill neigh filled the heights of Pelion)

**whinnied / to few gains** < hinnitu fugiens

line 5: **to few gains coastfoamed mares**

See Virgil line 4.

line 6: **unharrowed ptarmica fern-daisy centers few**

Wordsworth, “Yarrow Unvisited,” lines 20-22:

The lintwhites sing in chorus;  
There’s pleasant Tiviot-dale, a land  
Made blithe with plough and harrow;

*Webster’s Dictionary*, **harrow**, *n.* A cultivating implement set with spikelike or spring teeth or disks, used primarily for pulverizing and smoothing the soil

Taylor, **Achillea** {see line 1} > **A. Ptarmica**. Sneezewort. {illustration caption:} Sneezewort (*Achillea Ptarmica*), a double-flowered form of a hardy perennial, useful for dry or even sandy sites; summer-blooming and white.

Gray, **FAM. 168 COMPOSITAE** (Compsite Family) > **69. Achillèa** {see line 2} > **1. A. PTÁRMICA** L. (old generic name from the Greek, *causing to sneeze*), SNEEZEWEED (1515).

Everett, *Field Flowers*, **YARROW, OR MILFOIL**, *Achillea millefolium* [Thistle family]

FLOWERS: Tiny “daisies” with few rays, clustered together in flat-topped heads that measure 2 inches or less across. Each “flower” has three to five white or pinkish rays. PLANT: Perennial, creeping, 1 to 2 feet tall. Stem tough, erect, leafy. Leaves oblong or lance-shaped, many times divided so that they are fringy and fern-like.

line 7: **rays grace forest charms arch**

See Everett line 6.

Wordsworth, "Yarrow Visited," lines 18-19, 47, 73:

that pearly whiteness  
Is round the rising sun diffused,  
{...}  
The grace of forest charms decayed,  
{...}  
I see—but not by sight alone,

See Taylor line 1.

**arch / chill ear** < *achillea* {LZ notes above New Englanders' propensity to drop r's: ear > ea, e.g. as JFK might pronounce it.}

line 8: **chill ear knows weathers flame**

See line 7.

Virgil, *Aeneid* IV, line 23 {NBk dated Oct 10/75 (p. 10A-2)}:

adgnosco veteris vestigia flammae.  
(I recognize the traces of the olden flame.)

**knows whethers flame** < *adgnosco veteris flammae* {in NBk rendered: and know weather's vestige aflame > I know vestiges of the old flame (passion) [or] know I so weather's vestige flame (3rd abbreviated list p. 5)}.