



## Herbal Garden (Muligai Vanam)



### Foetidcassia (Tagarai)

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<b>Botanical Name</b>	:	<i>Sennatoria</i> (L.) Roxb.
<b>Tamil Name</b>	:	Tagarai
<b>Sanskrit Name</b>	:	Chakramarda
<b>English Name</b>	:	Foetidcassia

### Distribution and Habitat

*Sennatoria* (L.) Roxb. Is a stout, erect, smooth semi woody annual herb one-two meter in height of the Caesalpiniaceae family. It is mostly found in South East Asia and the South West Pacific as an important weed. In India it occurs in wasteland as a rainy season weed, grows in dry soil throughout tropical parts and



high hills of elevation up to 1,800 m as well as in plains. Leaves 6 – 12.5 cm long, leaflet 3 in pairs, 3-5 cm long, membranous, ovate-oblong, with subulate glands in the last two pairs, showing sleepy movement at night; The flowers are bright yellow in colour, usually in pairs, on very short axillary peduncles; pods stout 4-angle, 15-25 cm long, sickle shaped; seeds green to dark brown, salty and bitter, 25-30 in a pod.

### Parts used

Whole plant - leaf, root and seed

### Phytochemical constituents

Anthraquinones as chrysophanol, physcion, emodin, rhein, obtusifolin, obtusin, rubrofusarin, aurantio-obtusin, chrysophanic acid-9-anthrone, triglucoside, nor-rubrofusarin, gentiobioside-torachydone, toralactone, alaterinin, stigmasterol,  $\beta$ -sitosterol- $\beta$ -D-glucoside, succinic acid, tartaric acid, uridine, quercetin, isoquercetin, and 1,4- $\beta$ -D-mannopyranose linked to 1,6-linked  $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranose unit.

## Uses

*S. tora* leaves, seeds, and roots have long been used as food ingredients. The seeds can be introduced as a protein rich food for livestock. The seeds are used in the preparation of sweets and the powder of the roasted seeds is substituted for coffee. The seeds yield yellow, blue and red coloured dye used in dyeing and tanning.

## Medicinal uses

Different part of the plant (leaves, seed and root) are reputed for their medicinal value. It is a valued medicinal plant in Ayurveda, commonly used as a depurative, antiperiodic, anthelmintic, liver tonic, hepatic disorders, dyspepsia, leprosy, ophthalmic, and others. The leaves and seeds are used in the treatment of skin disorders like ringworm and itch. Seed extract has the ability to maintain a healthy digestive system while helping the body get rid of harmful toxins effectively with its laxative properties. Seed is used for the treatment of red or itchy eyes and also alleviates the discomfort in case of light-sensitive eyes and also used as antifungal and antibacterial agent (Sarwa et al. 2014). In Andhra Pradesh, the tribal people have been using the leaves of this plant grounded along with pepper and water into a paste for the treatment of jaundice. Decoction of the leaves and flowers is used internally for bronchitis and asthma, plant pacifies vitiated tridosha, dandruff, constipation, cough, hepatitis, fever and haemorrhoids (Jain and Patil, 2010). Root is considered bitter, tonic, stomachic and is antidote against snake bite. The plant has been reported several pharmacological actions such as antiseptic, anthelmintic, antipyretic, diuretic, purgative, antidiabetic, antimicrobial, antioxidant and insecticidal effect.



## Conclusion

*Sennatora* an annual herb grows as a weed along roadsides, wastelands and other degraded areas. The whole plant and its parts (leaf, root, seed) are widely used in traditional and folkloric systems of medicine. It is also used for its remarkable nutritional and various pharmacological properties. *Senna* is not only a weed but an important medicinal herb that can be used in treating various disorders.

## Photo link

<https://iiitl.ac.in/?k=senna-tora-nature-cc-jgYMbf7>

<https://www.avlasthydrocolloids.com/product/cassia-tora-seed>

