

Botanic name : *Atylosia scarabaeoides*(L.) Benth.

(syn. *Cajanus scarabaeoides* (L.) Thouars)

Common name: Showy pigeonpea

Family: Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Habitat: Terrestrial

Distribution: Once widespread throughout Asia, especially in southern India (north to 24°N lat.), China, south-east Asia, northern Australia and New Guinea, West Africa and Zanzibar, becomes rare in Indian Himalayas (least concern IUCN Red List)

Description: Perennial climber or trailer with woody root. Stem is covered with rusty reddish pubescence. Leaves are trifoliolate, with 7-27 mm long stalk. Leaflets, elliptic or elliptic-obovate, lateral leaflets slightly oblique, blunt to somewhat pointed, velvety and gland dotted on both surfaces.. Yellow flowers are borne in 2-6-flowered clusters on short axillary stalks. Flowers are yellow, flushed crimson externally.. densely velvety and glandular, 3-6-seeded, furrowed between the seeds.

Phytochemicals: Terpenoids

Medicinal/Economic uses: The plant is used for pregnancy-related swelling and pain in leg (leaf paste fresh), also used in problems like dropsy, night fever, anaemia, wounds and burns, small-pox, hemiplegia, syphilis, gonorrhoea, venereal sores, spermatorrhea, gravel, cholera, dysentery, snake-bite. It is also used to treat cattle diarrhoea. In Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, indigenous people use the plant decoction as a tonic after delivery. The pods and leaves are eaten to prevent pregnancy-related swelling and pain in leg. In Bihar, India tribal people use plant or root paste and mixed with coconut oil apply on head for fifteen days to check hair falling to cure baldness