

Botanic name : *Cassia sophera* L. -- Sp. Pl. 1: 379. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK) [*Senna sophera*]

Common name : Bush Senna, Kalkasunda (Bengali)

Family : Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Pantropical; aggressively invasive in many countries including India. The plant shows allelopathic potential on native crops and even on existing weeds to invade new areas

Description : Annual erect diffuse undershrub; stems branched; leaves alternate, pinnately compound, exstipulate, petiolate; petiole often with single gland; pinnae 8-10, opposite, linear-lanceolate, stipels 0; flowers mustard yellow, arranged in corymbose (racemose) manner; sepals 5, free; petals 5 free; androecium with 10 herterodynamous (2 long + 4 medium + 4 staminodes) stamens; placentation marginal; fruit legumes or pod, long, with 18-20 black seeds

Phytochemicals: Emodin, chrysophanic acid, sophernin, quercetin (heart wood), anthraquinone, glycosides, chrysophenol, physcion, β -sitosterol (root bark), flavonol-C-glycoside and sennoside (leaves), anthraquinone and flavanol glycoside including chrysophanol, rhamnetin glycoside and campesterol, fucosterol and sitosterol (flower),

Medicinal/Economic uses : Antidiabetic, expectorant and bronchodilator, anthelmintic and as cathartic, antiseptic (Indian Homoeopathy), and spasmolytic. Tincture made of Root-bark Used in homeopathy for asthma, allergies, rhinitis, impaired appetite, sinusitis, gonorrhoea, trachitis, influenza, malaria, urticaria, dermatitis. Used in treating cough, ascaris, analgesic, constipation, ringworm, rheumatic troubles and worm infestation. In Ayurvedic system of treatment its roots is considered as expectorant; bark, leaves and seeds are cathartic; leaves are anthelmintic and antiseptic. A decoction of the whole plant is beneficial in declining urine. Leaf juice is specific for ring worm while leaf infusion is helpful in gonorrhoea and syphilis. Tribals in NE Bangladesh reportedly use root paste mixed with black pepper to treat bronchitis and jaundice.