

**Botanic name :** *Vicia sativa* L. -- Sp. Pl. 2: 736. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

**Common name :** Common Vetch, Spring Vetch

**Family :** Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

**Habitat :** Terrestrial

**Distribution :** Native to southern Europe and is now widespread in the Mediterranean basin, in West and Central Asia, China, eastern Asia, India and in the USA, often in invasive form. More read: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/56369>

**Description :** An annual scrambling and climbing herb; leaves compound, alternate, stipulate; stipule toothed margins, dark-spotted; leaflets obovate-lanceolate-linear, 1-7 pairs, terminal leaflets modified into a tendril, notched at tip, entire at margins; corolla irregular, purple-red, petals 5 in typical vexillary aestivation, stamens 10-dialdelphous, filaments with fused bases; gynoeceium monocarpellary; inflorescence 1-2-flowered raceme; fruits legume

**Phytochemicals:** Chromatotropic acid, Quercitin, Vanillic acid, Syringic acid, Vitamin C, Trans-4-hydroxy-3-methoxy cinamic acid, Kaempferol

**Medicinal/Economic uses :** Good protein source, Traditionally, the plant is used as an anti-asthmatic, aphrodisiac, antipyretic, appetizer anti rheumatic, digestion tonic, diuretic, demulcent, expectorant, laxative, cholagogue and refrigerant. It is mostly used for the treatment of asthma, coughs bronchitis, skin diseases, pipes and urinary troubles (Gulshan et al. 2012). As a good N<sub>2</sub> fixer, used as forage crop, cover crop and to reclaim soil fertility.