

Botanic name : *Crotalaria medicaginea var. Medicaginea* Lam.

Family: Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Common name: Medick Rattlepod

Habitat: Terrestrial

Distribution: India, Pakistan, Malay Isles, Afghanistan, China and Australia, at altitudes of 100-1400 m.

Description: Perennial herb, about 30 cm or less tall. Stem is branched, sparsely velvety, hairs prostrate. Leaves are trifoliolate, stalk about 2.5-5.5 mm long. Leaflets are about 6-10 mm long, about 2.5-4.5 mm broad, inverted-lance shaped to obovate, blunt to flat tipped apiculate, hairless above, velvety below. Leaflet-stalks are short; stipules minute, threadlike. Flowers are borne in terminal and leaf-opposed, in 2-6-flowered raceme, appearing much like Medick plants. Bract minute, linear, subulate. Sepal cup is 2.5 mm long, pubescent, teeth acute, longer than the tube. Flowers are yellow. Vexillum about 5-6 mm long, pubescent externally. Fruit is almost spherical, about 4 mm or less long, velvety, beaked, 2-seeded.

Phytochemicals: Steroid β - sitosterol, and 1-nonadecanol, alkaloids, terpenoids, flavonoids, anthraquinones

Medicinal/Economic uses: Antibacterial. Used as traditional folk medicine as purgative, astringent, in treating jaundice and palpitation, inflammation, skin disease.