

**Botanic name:** *Tephrosia purpurea* (Linn.) Pers.

**Common name:** Fish poison, Wild Indigo

**Family:** Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

**Habitat:** Terrestrial

**Distribution:** Pantropical; native to the old-world tropics from Africa, Southeast Asia to Australia, abundant in upper & Mid Gangetic and Western Himalayas of India

**Description:** Herbs, spreading branches; leaves bipinnate, with narrow, oblanceolate leaflets; the flowers red or purple in extra-axillary racemes, sub-monadelphous stamens; pods slightly curved, grey, smooth

**Phytochemicals:** Flavones, flavanones and prenylated flavonoids, chalcones, and rotenoids, an aromatic ester 1, a sesquiterpene of the rare rotundane skeleton 2 and a prenylated flavonoid 3.

**Medicinal/Economic uses:** Leaves and seeds contain tephrosin, which paralyzes fish. Used traditionally as folk medicine, as anthelmintic, alexiteric, antipyretic; used in leprosy, ulcers, asthma, bronchitis, diuretic, and tumors, as well as in treatments of heart, liver, spleen, and blood, in dyspepsia, diarrhea, rheumatism, asthma, dental pain, and urinary disorders. Also used in certain cosmetic preparations. An effective green manure in paddy fields in India and in tobacco and rubber plantation in other tropical countries