

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stems (subsp. *nigra*). Photographer Don Wood, Narradji National Park, ACT



Plant with flowers and pods (subsp. *nigra*). Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Department of Botany, creator VL Wagner, Hawaii, USA



Flowering stems (subsp. *nigra*). Photographer Don Wood, Ben Boyd National Park south of Eden



Flower and leaves (subsp. *sativa*). Photographer Russell Best, Riddells Creek near Melbourne, Vic



Pods (subsp. *sativa*). Photographer Russell Best, Riddells Creek near Melbourne, Vic

## Common name

Narrow-leaved vetch (subsp. *nigra*), Common vetch (subsp. *sativa*)

## Family

Fabaceae

## Where found

**Woodland**, pastures, roadsides and other disturbed sites, and moist areas. Widespread.

subsp. *nigra* Widespread.

subsp. *sativa* Coast and ranges north from near Wollongong. Occasionally elsewhere.

## Notes

**Introduced annual** herb, trailing or twining, stems to 1.2 m long. Stems hairy to more or less hairless. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 2-11 cm long excluding the tendril at the tip, **compound**, with 4-18 leaflets. Leaflets each 0.5-4 cm long, 1-15 mm wide, tips squared off to notched, with a small abrupt point, surfaces white or grey-hairy to hairless. **Stipules** mostly mostly lobed with a prominent yellowish central **gland**. Flowers 8-30 mm long, pea shaped, with 5 **petals**, 2 joined together to form the **keel**, pink or mauve to reddish purple or violet. Flowers almost stalkless, or the flower stalks shorter than the flowers. Flowers in clusters of 1-4 flowers. Flowers Winter to Spring.

**subsp. nigra** has leaflets 1-4 mm wide, flowers 8-18 mm long, pod brown, turning black when mature. Was **Vicia sativa subsp. angustifolia**.

**subsp. sativa** has leaflets 2-12 mm wide, flowers 17-30 mm long, pod brown or yellow brown when mature.

PlantNET description of species and key to subspecies: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Vicia~sativa> (accessed 8 February, 2021)

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