

# *Senna clavigera* (Domin) Randell

Family:  
**Fabaceae**

Randell, B.R. (1988) *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens* 11(1): 39.

Common name:  
Pepper Leaf Senna

## Stem

Usually flowers and fruits when about 60 cm high but can grow to a height of 1.5 m.

## Leaves

Stipules +/- triangular, about 1-2 mm long. Leaflet blades about 30-60 x 7-15 mm, the terminal pair largest. About eight leaflets per leaf. Compound leaf rachis and leaflet stalks sparsely clothed in pale hairs. Compound leaf rachis and compound leaf petiole channelled on the upper surface. A conspicuous stalked gland visible on the upper surface of the petiole just above its junction with the twig.

## Flowers

Petals about 8 mm long. Stamens ten, six fertile, two large plus four smaller and four staminodes, one long plus three short. Ovary sparsely hairy. Stigma green, recurved.

## Fruit

Pods slightly inflated, about 4-6.5 x 0.5-0.6 cm. Seeds about 3-4 x 2-3 mm, laterally compressed, +/- olive green in colour, about 40-50 per fruit. Embryo yellowish.

## Seedlings

Cotyledons obovate, about 13-15 x 10 mm, held +/- vertical and appressed to the stem. First pair of true leaves pinnate, each leaf usually consists of four leaflets, the terminal pair being larger than the basal pair. Stipules linear. At the tenth leaf stage: stipules linear to narrowly triangular, about 3-4 mm long. A single globose gland usually visible on the upper surface of the compound leaf rachis between the first pair of leaflets. Compound leaf rachis grooved on the upper surface. Seed germination time 7 to 8 days.

## Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to Australia, occurs in NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as south-eastern New South Wales. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 800 m. Usually grows in wet sclerophyll forest but also found in disturbed areas in monsoon forest and vine thickets.

## Synonyms

***Cassia sophera* var. *clavigera* Domin**, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 792(1928), Type: Queensland: A. Dietrich s.n. Holo: PR. ***Cassia sophera* var. *pubescens* Benth.**, *Flora Australiensis* 2: 283(1864), Type: Queensland, Broad Sound, 1802, R. Brown, Bowman; Otleys Station, Leichhardt; Paramatta Woolls. Lecto: BM. Fide B. R. Randell (1988).

## RFK Code

3342



Leaves and Flowers. © A. Ford & F. Goulter



Habit, leaves, flowers and fruit. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



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