

# *Senna siamea* (Lam.) H.S.Irwin & Barneby

Family:  
**Fabaceae**

Irwin, H.S. & Barneby, R.C. (1982) *Memoirs New York Botanical Garden* 35: 98.

Common name:  
Cassia, Siamese; Kassod Tree; Siamese Cassia

## Stem

Usually grows into a small tree.

## Leaves

Compound leaves with about 8-20 leaflets. Leaflet blades about 32-60 x 12-30 mm, leaflet stalks about 4-5 mm long. Leaflet apex emarginate with a mucro in the sinus. Compound leaf rhachis flat and grooved on the upper surface. Lateral veins forming loops inside the leaflet blade margins. Stipules small and inconspicuous, about 0.5-1 mm long. Crushed leaves emit an unpleasant odour.

## Flowers

Flowers about 25 mm diam., but only a few open in each inflorescence. Pedicels about 30-35 mm long. Calyx lobes unequal, 5-10 mm long. Petals about 13-15 mm long. Fertile stamens seven, staminodes three. Anthers about 5 mm long. Ovary about 10 mm long. Style glabrous, about 5 mm long.

## Fruit

Fruits about 16-20 cm long. Seeds about 10-20 per pod, each seed about 8-9 x 5-6 mm, flat and thin, testa marked by a depressed central area (pleurogram). Radicle about 2 mm long. Cotyledons about 6 mm long with distinct venation.

## Seedlings

Cotyledons +/- orbicular, about 17 x 13 mm, petioles very short, about 1 mm long. First leaf compound with two leaflets each about 19 x 10 mm, leaflet stalks about 1.5 mm long. Third leaf compound with five leaflets each about 8-11 x 3-5 mm, leaflet stalks about 1 mm long. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf pinnate with 10-14 leaflets, leaflets elliptic-lanceolate, apex apiculate, base obtuse. Rhachis grooved on the upper surface. Usually several bristle-like caducous glands present on the rhachis between the pairs of leaflets. Terminal bud clothed in short silky hairs. Seed germination time 158 days.

## Distribution and Ecology

An introduced species originally from India and SE Asia now naturalised in CYP and NEQ, records from WA and NT but not considered naturalised (in 2015). Altitudinal range from near sea level to 300 m but grows in cultivation at altitudes to 750 m. Originally cultivated but now also found in gallery forests along the creeks and rivers.

## Synonyms

*Cassia siamea* Lam., *Encyclopedie Methodique. Botanique* 1 : 648(1785), Type: Cette belle espece croit aux environs de Siam, holo: P.

## RFK Code

1097



Flowers [not vouchered]. CC-BY

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Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

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