PLANT FACT SHEET

Senna italica Miller

GENUS *Senna* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Italian senna, Mecca senna, Senegal senna

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds - coffee, Seeds, Vegetable, Leaves

The young seeds are cooked and eaten. They are also used as a coffee substitute.
The seeds are sometimes used as food.
They are also added to beer.

DESCRIPTION

A herb or small shrub. It keeps growing from year to year. It can grow 1 m tall. It has a taproot. The base is woody and the stems are soft. It lies along the ground and has upright flower stalks. The leaves are compound with leaflets along the stalk. They have 3-7 pairs of leaflets. These are unequal in shape and oval. The flowers are yellow. They are 2-2.5 cm across. The fruit are large pods that are flat and have a ridge along them. There are some subspecies.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in hot, arid places with a marked dry season. It can have a dry season of 6-11 months and can grow in warm temperate humid locations. It grows in areas with an rainfall below 500 mm. It can grow in acid and salty soils. They can be stony or sandy. It grows between 50-1,830 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

NOTES

Also as Caesalpinaceae.

REFERENCES

Al-Fatimi, M. A., Wild Edible Plants Traditionally Collected and Used in Southern Yemen. Research Square. University of Aden. p 23

Al-Sodany, Y. M., et al, 2020, Plant Diversity and Community Structure of the Main Wadis at High Altitudes of the Western Mountains at Taif, Saudi Arabia. Egypt. J. Bot., Vol. 60, No.2, pp. 325-346

Bot. Gart. Halle 21. 1800 (As Cassia italica)

Burkill, H. M., 1985, The useful plants of west tropical Africa, Vol. 3. Kew.

Diarra, N. et al, 2016, Etude ethnobotanique des plantes alimentaires utilisées en période de soudure
dans les régions Sud du Mali. Int. J. Biol. Chem. Sci. 10(1): 184-197

FAO, 1988, Traditional Food Plants, FAO Food and Nutrition Paper 42. FAO Rome p 158 (As Cassia italica)

Flora of Pakistan. www.eFlora.org (As Cassia italica)

Grubben, G. J. H. and Denton, O. A. (eds), 2004, Plant Resources of Tropical Africa 2. Vegetables. PROTA, Wageningen, Netherlands. p 564

ILDIS Legumes of the World http:www:ildis.org/Legume/Web

Karim, F. M. & Dakheel, A, J., 2006, Salt-tolerant plants of the United Arab Emirates. 2006. International Center for Biosaline Agriculture, Dubai, UAE. p 108 (As Cassia italica)

Koukou, E., et al, 2022, Local knowledge of agricultural biodiversity and food uses in two agroecological zones of southern Benin. Ethnobotany Research and Applications 23:29 (2022) p 9

Long, C., 2005, Swaziland's Flora - siSwati names and Uses http://www.sntc.org.sz/flora/

Majeed, M., et al, 2021, Gathered Wild Food Plants among Diverse Religious Groups in Jhelum District, Punjab, Pakistan. Foods 2021, 10, 594.

Mutie, F. M., et al, 2023, Important Medicinal and Food Taxa (Orders and Families) in Kenya, Based on Three Quantitative Approaches. Plants 2023, 12, 1145

Phillips, D.C., 1988, Wild Flowers of Bahrain. A Field Guide to Herbs, Shrubs, and Trees. Privately published. p 34 (As Cassia italica)

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (1999). Survey of Economic Plants for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SEPASAL) database. Published on the Internet; http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/ceb/sepasal/internet [Accessed 26th April 2011]

Terra, G.J.A., 1973, Tropical Vegetables. Communication 54e Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, p 41 (As Crotalaria aschrek)

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/46ac835c-4922-4696-b373-4c5edb594b4f