

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

**Family** : Fabaceae  
**Parts Used** : Whole plant  
**Vernacular Names**  
English : Cassia  
Malayalam : Manjakonna  
Tamil : Manjakonnai



**Distribution and Habitat:** Western Peninsula, Ceylon, Malayan Peninsula and Siam.

**Properties:** Mucilaginous and cathartic

**Botany:** A moderate sized tree with virgate finally grey downy terete branchlets.

- **Bark:** Grey; wood dark brown to nearly black, hard and durable.
- **Leaves:** Strongly veined, mucronate, glabrous on both sides, stipules caducous; leaflets oblong, emarginated, distinctly stalked
- **Inflorescence:** Corymbs crowded, both axillary and in a terminal panicle. Flowers yellow, sepals downy, very obtuse. Petals middle sized, bright yellow, not veined, stamens subequal.
- **Fruit:** Pod nearly straight, flat, distinctly stalked, firmer in texture.

**Properties:** Laxative, antimicrobial

**Chemical constituents:** Leaves: barakol, anhydrobarakol, Cassiarin A and B, chrysophanol, emodin, rhein, physicon, and sennosides lupeol and  $\beta$ -sitosterol . Stem and root bark: Coumarin and betulinic acid, siamchromones A-G, kaempferol [39], emodin, and chrysophanol. Seed contains stigmaterol, palmitic, oleic, linoleic, and stearic acids, aloe emodin, vitamin B1, B2, B3, C, and E and various amino acids

**Uses:** Used for treatment of headache and flu, laxative for pregnant women, for curing digestive problems, asthma, constipation, toothache etc. It is used for treating skin infections.

**Propagation:** Seeds

