

## *Indigofera tinctoria* L.



**Habit:** Herb

**Morphology:** Suffrutescent herbs, to 1.5 m tall; stem erect, appressed-pubescent. Leaves pinnately 5-13-foliolate; leaflets opposite, 5-22 x 5-12 mm, elliptic to obovate, base and apex rounded, darkening on drying; stipules c. 2 mm long, subulate. Inflorescence axillary, spicate-racemose, many-flowered. Flowers 5-7 mm long, red; pedicels c. 1 mm long. Calyx 2-3 mm long, pubescent; lobes narrow lanceolate, acuminate. Petals reddish; standard c. 4 mm long, suborbicular. Ovary 8-12-ovuled, hairy. Pods 2-3 cm long, c. 2 mm wide, linear, straight or slightly curved, 8-12-seeded.

**Taxonomy:**

<b>Kingdom</b>	Plantae
<b>Division</b>	Angiospermae
<b>Class</b>	Equisetopsida C. Agardh
<b>Order</b>	Fabales
<b>Family</b>	Fabaceae
<b>Genus</b>	Indigofera
<b>Species</b>	<i>Indigofera tinctoria</i> L.

**Uses:** A leaf infusion (sometimes combined with honey or milk) is used to treat a range of disorders including epilepsy and nervous disorders; asthma and bronchitis; fever; complaints of the stomach, liver, kidney and spleen; and as a rabies prophylactic. Applied externally, the leaves are made into an ointment for treating skin diseases, wounds, sores, ulcers and haemorrhoids. A

tincture of the seed is used in India to kill lice. A root preparation is applied to relieve toothache, syphilis, gonorrhoea and kidney stones. A watery root paste is applied topically in India to treat worm-infested wounds. A root infusion is used there as an antidote against snakebites and to treat insect and scorpion stings.

**Reference:** [pfaf.org](http://pfaf.org), [indianbiodiversity.org](http://indianbiodiversity.org)