PSORALEA CORYLIFOLIA LINN. (LEGUMINOSAE) —A NEWLY NATURALIZED MEDICINAL PLANT FOR TAIWAN

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Abstract: *Psoralea corylifolia* Linn. (Leguminosae), a medicinal plant of Indian origin, is here reported for the first time from Taiwan. A taxonomic description and a line drawing are prepared.

Psoralea corylifolia Linn., Sp. Pl. 764. 1753; Baker in Hooker, Fl. British India 2: 103. 1879; Ridley, Fl. Malay Peninsula 583. 1922; Nagata, Illust. Jap. Allen Plants 119. 1972. 補骨脂 **Pl. 1.**

An annual suffruticose herb, much branched, up to 150 cm high; stems angular-ribbed, hairy, gland-dotted. Leaves simple, alternate, petiolate; petioles 15–20 mm long, grooved, hairy, gland-dotted, articulate at upper parts; blades broadly ovate or cordate-rounded, 6.5–8 cm long, 4.5–5.5 cm wide, the lateral veinlets prominent, appressedly pubescent and with dark-coloured glandular dots on both surfaces, denticulate, sub-acute or obtuse at apex, obtuse or sometimes cuneate at base. Inflorescence racemose, densely flowered, axillary, long pedunculate; flowers small, light violet, 3–5 mm long; bracts small, pedicels 1–2 mm long; calyx copiously gland-dotted, the tubes 1.5–1.8 mm long, the lowermost segments vaulted, the other segments much shorter; corolla light violet with a pale base, the standard 5.5–6.5 mm long, glabrous, keels slightly shorter than wings. Pods enclosed by the calyx, favosely ribbed, black, glabrous, about 6 mm long.

Distribution: India, Malay peninsula, Indonesia and Mainland China. Taiwan, naturalized in waste ground of Taipei County. Rare.

Specimens examined: TAIWAN. Taipei Co.: Hsin-chuan, Yu-Kwang Lin s. n. 20 July 1990; J. C. Ou, Y. K. Lin and M. T. Kao s. n. 22 July 1990*. (NRICM), (TAI), (HAST).

Uses: The ripe fruit of *Psoralea corylifolia* Linn. is used to treat impotence due to premature ejaculation, spermatorrhea, enuresis, backache, knee pain and pollakiuria in traditional Chinese medicine.

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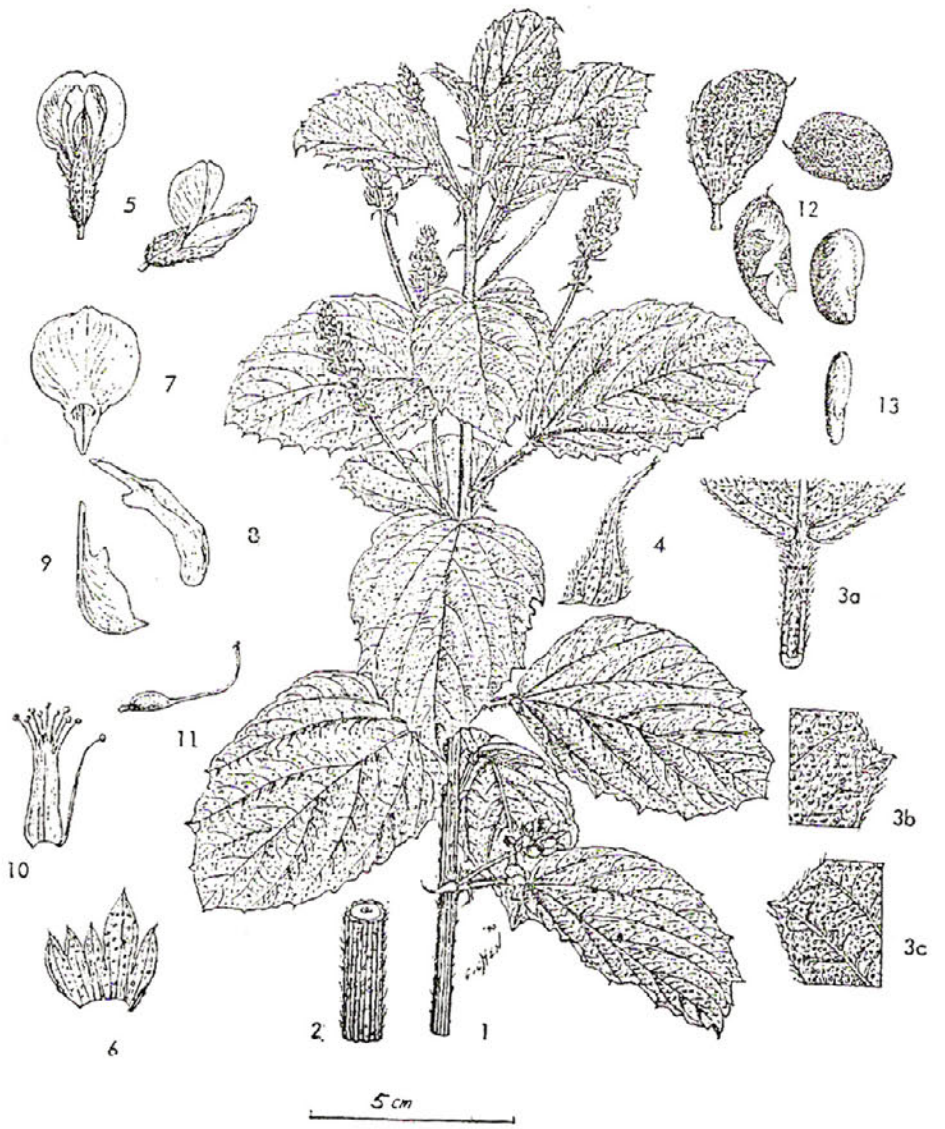
* The Illustration was based on this specimen.



Pl. 1. *Psoralea corylifolia* Linn.

1. Habit; 2. stem enlarged; 3a. leaf base with articulate petiolate showing glandular-dots; 3b. surface; 3c. undersurface; 4. stipule; 5. flower; 6. calyx; 7. standard; 8. wing petal; 9. keel petal; 10. stamens; 11, pistil; 12. fruits; 13. seeds.

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臺灣新歸化種藥用植物——補骨脂(豆科)

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摘　要

藥用植物補骨脂（*Psoralea corylifolia* L.）爲原產印度的草本植物。該植物的種子，在我國自古即供藥用，宋・開寶本草（公元 973~974 年）即已收錄，爲補腎助陽藥。據最近的藥理研究發現，補骨脂種子的粹取物對實驗性動物具有促進其造血功能的作用。本植物最近發現野生在臺北新莊之荒地上。本文描述此新歸化種之分類性狀，並繪製其外形及解剖圖以資辨識。