

## *Senna surattensis* (Syn. *Cassia glauca*)

**Common name:** Glauous Cassia, Scrambled Egg Tree, Golden Senna, Sulphur-flowered Senna

**Family:** Fabaceae

**Habit:** Tree

**Location:** Science Block and Botanical Garden

**Distribution:** It is native to Tropical Asia, possibly Southeast Asia. Distribution is extended to China, Formosa, Australia. Cultivated in many countries. In India, it is extended to Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu.

**Description:** Shrubs; branchlets ribbed, thinly pubescent. Leaves alternate, rachis (including petiole) 8-20 cm long, ribbed; leaflets 6-10 pairs, 2-5 x 0.8-2 cm, strongly accrescent, elliptic or oblong to obovate-oblong, obtuse at apex, oblique at base, glabrous or pubescent beneath, 2-3 times as long as broad, secondary veins 6-9 pairs; petioles 2-4 cm long; stipules up to 1.5 cm long, linear-ensiform, inflexed, pubescent, sub persistent. Glands 1-2.4 x 0.3-0.7 mm, cylindric-subclavate, stipitate, between lower 1 to 3 pairs of leaflets. Racemes 5 to 20- pedicellate flowered, in the axils of upper leaves, corymbose; peduncles 2.5-8 cm long; Sepals obtuse, pubescent outside in bud. Petals 0.8-2.5 cm long and about as wide, yellow. Stamens 10, subequal, all fertile; anthers with narrow and deflexed top, dehiscing by apical pores and lateral rims. Ovary stipitate, silky hairy; style 1.5-3 mm long, pubescent. Pods 4-10 x 0.8-1.8 cm, strap-shaped, flat, thin-valved, septate, dark brown; seeds 10-13, brown, 5-7 x 2.5-4 mm, oblong, blackish, shiny.

### Uses:

Glauous Cassia is a small ornamental tree and very common in gardens and is also often seen planted along city streets and roadsides. Aerial parts are used as a central nervous system depressant, purgative, antimalarial and as a diuretic. The leaves are long linear and curved in shape. In folk-lore medicine, bark and leaves of *Cassia glauca* are used for the treatment of diabetes and gonorrhea.

