

## *Centrosema*

Twining perennial. Leaves pinnate, with three leaflets. Stipels present. Flowers large, pink to pale purple, inverted, the standard pointing downwards. Stamens 10, 9 filaments joined for most of their length in a dorsally split tube, 1 free. Style minutely hairy around the stigma. Pods long and narrow, thickened along each margin, many-seeded.

### *Centrosema pubescens*

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Twining perennial, forming tangled mats or twining up shrubs to 2m or more. Stems covered with minute adpressed hairs. Stipules 2-4mm long, triangular, adpressed, persistent. Petioles 20-40mm long, rachis 5-15mm long, both minutely hairy. Stipels 1-2mm long. Leaflets dark green, 40-80mm long, 20-40mm wide, the laterals markedly smaller than the terminal leaflet, broadest below the mid-point, the base rounded, more or less attenuated to the rounded tip, hairless to sparsely hairy on both surfaces, minutely mucronate.

Inflorescence a raceme of 2-5 flowers clustered at the end of a 10-60mm peduncle. Flowers borne in pairs within the axil of a broad, deciduous bract each on a c. 7mm pedicel, each flower bud partially enclosed by a pair of deciduous bracteoles which are densely covered with minute hooked hairs. Calyx 6-11mm long, the two dorsal sepals joined almost to the tip, similar in length to the lateral sepals, the ventral sepal much longer, tapering to a fine point, all sepals minutely hairy towards the tips. Standard pink to pale purple, c. 20mm tall, 20-30mm wide, densely hairy on the back. Wings pinkish purple towards the tips.

Pod 70-150mm long, 6-7mm wide, straight or slightly curved, the tip extended into a fine point, flattened but strongly thickened along upper and



*Centrosema pubescens*, Gordonvale, 17°07'S, 145°45'E.

lower margins, hairless, containing 8-20 seeds, brown when ripe. Seeds 3-4mm long, 3mm wide, kidney-shaped, brown with elongated black markings, the surface dull.

**Distribution:** Co., N.K., W.B. Also naturalized in N.T., P.N.G. and in tropical Africa. Native to South America.

**Notes:** The most important pasture legume in the wet tropics. In addition to the common variety, cultivar Belalto was released in 1971. Nodulates, self-pollinating. The related annual species *C. pascuorum* (cvv. Bunday and Cavalcade) has been released as a pasture legume for the Northern Territory.

**References:** 3, 22, 26, 46, 50, 51, 72, 95, 141, 143, 287, 306.

## *Chamaecytisus*

Shrubs with digitate leaves with three leaflets, lacking stipules or stipels. Stamens 10, the filaments all joined in a closed tube, the anthers alternately long and short. Style hairless.

### *Chamaecytisus palmensis*

Tree lucerne, tagasaste

Bushy shrub or small tree to 4m or more tall with arching branches. Young stems densely covered with short spreading hairs. Leaves rather crowded. Petiole 5-20mm long, minutely hairy.

Leaf lamina 8-30mm long, 3-10mm wide, broadest at or above the mid-point, the margins slightly curving or tapering to the base and curving to the mucronate tip, sparsely hairy on the upper surface, more densely covered with adpressed hairs and with the mid-vein prominently raised on the lower surface.