

Macroptilium

Herbs with erect or twining stems. Leaves pinnate, with three leaflets. Stipels present. Flowers pinkish red or purple-black. Stamens 10, 9 filaments joined in a dorsally split tube, 1 free. Style with the upper thickened part abruptly curved through 90° just above its junction with the lower narrow part and prominently bearded on the upper side towards the tip. Pods long and narrow, many-seeded, held at right angles to the peduncle.

Key to species

Plants erect, rarely creeping or twining; wing petals pinkish red
Plants creeping or twining; wing petals purple-black

M. lathyroides
M. atropurpureum

Macroptilium atropurpureum

Siratro

Perennial, with stems to several metres in length, twining or prostrate, sometimes rooting from prostrate stems. Stems upwardly rough, densely covered with short backward-pointing hairs. Stipules 2-5mm long, triangular, spreading, persistent. Petioles 25-85mm long, rachis 5-10mm long. Stipels 0.5-2mm long. Leaflets dark green above, lighter and with prominent venation below, the terminal 20-85mm long, 18-50mm wide, broadest well below the mid-point, the margins more or less irregularly curved to the angled or broadly rounded tip, the lateral leaflets similar in size but usually strongly lobed along the proximal margin, sparsely covered on the upper surface and densely covered on the lower surface with short hairs.

Inflorescence an axillary raceme up to 450mm long including the peduncle, the 6-12 flowers rather crowded towards the tip. Flowers borne in groups of 1-3 within the axil of a c. 1.5mm deciduous bract, each flower on a c. 1mm pedicel which bears a pair of very deciduous bracteoles at the tip. Calyx 5-8mm long, minutely hairy, the sepals similarly joined for c. $\frac{2}{3}$ their length. Standard light pinkish brown, c. 11mm tall,



Macroptilium atropurpureum, Mt Crosby, 27°33'S, 152°54'E.

12mm wide, indented at the tip. Wings large and showy, purple-black, c. 25mm long from base of calyx, almost circular, with a narrow attachment, widely and asymmetrically spreading. Keel tubular, twisted almost into a complete circle, c. 20mm long from base of calyx.

Pods 50-110mm long, 3-5mm wide, straight but upwardly turned and tapered at the tip, densely but minutely hairy, dark brown when ripe, containing about 14 seeds. Seeds 3-4mm long, 2-3mm wide, more or less kidney-shaped, plump, brown flecked with black, or brown or black, dull.

Distribution: Co., Mo., P.C., S.K., N.K., W.B. Also N.T., W.A., N.S.W. A native of tropical America now widely naturalized through the world's tropics.

Notes: One of the more important pasture legumes for subhumid parts of the state. Palatable, adapted to most soils excluding heavy clays, and persistent providing it is not overgrazed and is occasionally allowed to produce a seed crop and re-establish. The bred cultivar Siratro was released in 1960. Nodulates, self-pollinating.

References: 23, 26, 32, 46, 75, 97, 121, 174, 287, 294, 306; as *Phaseolus atropurpureus*, 22.

Macroptilium lathyroides

Phasey bean

Erect annual or short-lived perennial herb to c. 1m tall. Stems occasionally slightly twining, minutely hairy. Stipules 4-8mm long, triangular, adpressed, persistent. Petiole 20-70mm long, rachis 6-15mm long. Stipels 1-2mm long. Leaflets 20-70mm long, 10-25mm wide, not lobed nor prominently veined on the undersurface, broadest at or below the mid-point, the margins curving to the narrowly angled tip and broadly angled to



Macroptilium lathyroides, Samford, 27°22'S, 152°53'E.

slightly rounded base, usually covered with adpressed hairs on the lower surface.

Inflorescence an axillary raceme up to 400mm long, including the long, stout peduncle, the flowers crowded in the upper $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$. Flowers borne in pairs, within the axils of very deciduous bracts, each on a c. 1mm pedicel which bears a pair of very deciduous bracteoles at the tip. Calyx 4-7mm long, covered with minute adpressed hairs, the sepals similarly joined for $\frac{1}{3}$ their

length, the teeth triangular. Standard pink, c. 10mm tall, 9mm wide, strongly indented at the tip. Wings dark pink, c. 22mm long from base of calyx, almost circular with a narrow base, asymmetrically spreading. Keel greenish, tubular, twisted almost into a complete circle.

Pods 80-100mm long, 2-3mm wide, straight, rounded in section, covered with short adpressed hairs, brown when ripe, containing c. 12-18 seeds. Seeds 3-4mm long, 1-2.5mm wide, plump, more or less kidney-shaped, flecked with black on reddish brown.

Distribution: Co., Lei., Mo., N.K., P.C., S.K. Also N.T., W.A., N.S.W. Native of tropical America, now widely naturalized through the world's tropics.

Notes: A palatable species but not persistent under grazing. The commercially used variety was named cv. Murray in 1966. A major source of pollen for honey bees. Nodulates. Self-pollinating.

References: 26, 46, 78, 112, 174, 180, 287, 306; as *Phaseolus lathyroides*, 16, 22, 44, 50.

Macrotyloma

Annual or perennial twining herbs with pinnate leaves with three leaflets. Stipels present. Flowers few in leaf axils, yellow-green, small to medium-sized. Wings very narrow. Stamens 10, 9 filaments joined in a dorsally split tube, 1 free. Style hairless or shortly hairy, the stigma surrounded by a ring of hairs.

Key to species

Flowers 6-12mm long, the standard 4-8mm wide
Flowers 12-15mm long, the standard 10-12mm wide

M. uniflorum
M. axillare

Macrotyloma axillare

Perennial with twining stems to 3.5m long. Stems more or less covered with adpressed silky hairs. Stipules 2-5mm long, tapering to a point. Petiole 12-40mm long, rachis 2-11mm long; stipels c. 1.5mm long. Leaflets 20-50mm long, 15-35mm wide, broadest at or below the mid-point, the tip and base broadly angled, covered with minute adpressed hairs on both surfaces, the upper surface slightly shiny, mucronate.

Inflorescence a contracted axillary raceme of 2-3 (rarely to 6) flowers, the peduncle up to c. 2mm long. Flowers borne within the axils of 2-3mm bracts, each on a 2-3mm pedicel which bears a pair of persistent 2.5-3mm bracteoles at the tip.

Calyx covered with silky adpressed hairs, c. 6mm long, the sepals joined for c. $\frac{1}{2}$ their length, the dorsal teeth almost totally joined. Standard greenish yellow, usually 12-15mm long, 10-12mm wide. Wings greenish yellow, very narrow, 12-14mm long from base of calyx, about the same length as the keel.

Pod 30-50mm long, c. 7mm wide, flattened, the tip extended into a c. 7mm point, covered with minute adpressed hairs, dark brown when ripe, containing 5-9 seeds. Seeds 2.5-3mm long, more or less oval, flattened, mottled light and dark.

Distribution: Mo. Also N.S.W. An African species commonly grown in pastures in wetter