

SENNA SIAMEA



Kingdom: Plantae
Clade: Angiosperms
Order: Fabales
Family: Fabaceae
Subfamily: Caesalpinioideae
Genus: Senna
Species: *S. siamea*

Senna siamea, also known as Siamese cassia, kassod tree, cassod tree, and cassia tree, is a legume tree in the subfamily Caesalpinioideae. It is native to South and Southeast Asia, although its exact origin is unknown.

USES

Food: The leaves, tender pods and seeds are edible, but they must be previously boiled and the water discarded. They are used in Burmese and also in Thai cuisine where one of the most well-known preparations is kaeng khilek). In Burmese tradition, during the full moon day of Tazaungmon, Burmese families pick Siamese cassia buds and prepare it in a salad called mezali phu thoke or in a soup.

Wood: Wood from *S. siamea* is highly valued in Chinese furniture making.

Ornamental: This plant has medicinal value and contains a compound named barakol. The tree is also planted as an ornamental and shade tree.

Other Uses: The dried leaves are used as a mulch or green manure, and the plant is a good source of pollen for honeybees.

Warning: The raw seeds and pods are considered toxic and can cause severe illness or death if ingested.