

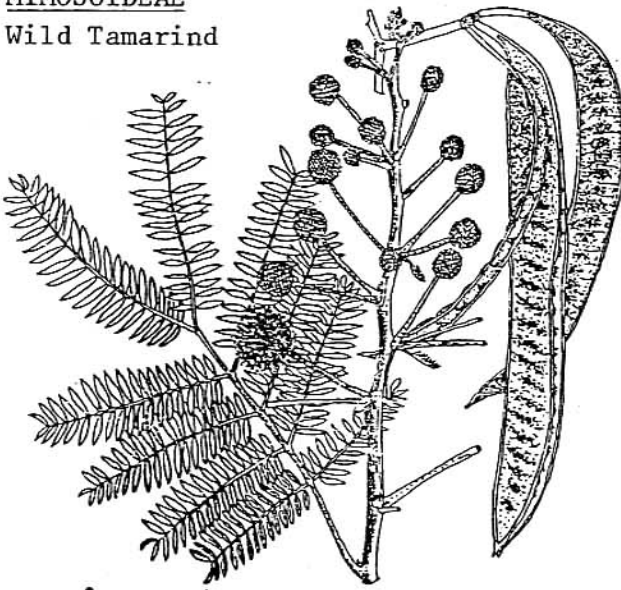
LEGUMINOSAE

The Pea Family

This is a very large family of herbs, climbing plants, shrubs and trees. All members have a single carpel with a single superior ovary. The fruit is a one chambered pod or legume. The leaves are alternate and pinnately compound with stipules. Most legumes have root nodules containing nitrogen-fixing bacteria (Rhizobium sp.) On the basis of flower structure 3 subfamilies are recognised - the Mimosoideae, the Caesalpinoideae and the Faboideae.* Mimosoideae flowers are regular, those of the other 2 subfamilies are irregular. All the inflorescences are racemes though in the Mimosoideae these are so contracted as to give the appearance of fuzzy balls. Floral patterns are best described diagrammatically.

MIMOSOIDEAE

Wild Tamarind



▲ Leucaena leucocephala

FABOIDEAE

Shak-shak

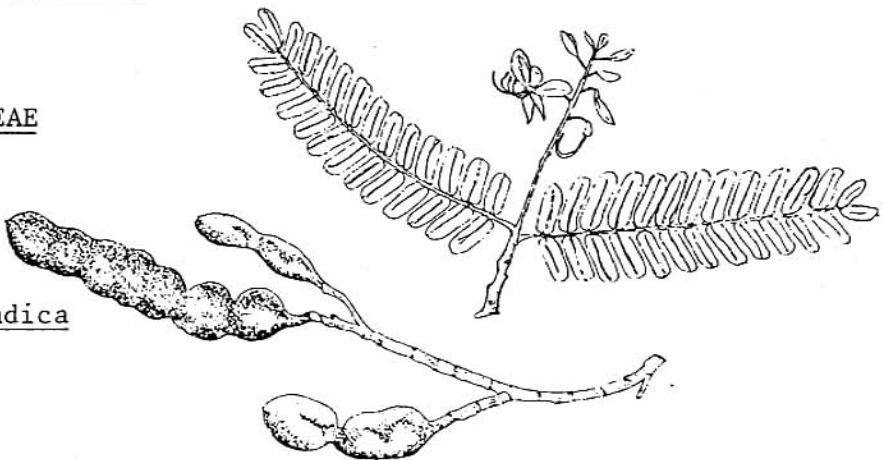
Crotalaria retusa



CAESALPINOIDEAE

Tamarind ▶

Tamarindus indica



*Many taxonomists consider the Leguminosae as the order Fabales containing three families - Mimosaceae, Caesalpinaceae, Fabaceae.