

51. LOTONONIS (Candolle) Ecklon & Zeyher, Enum. Pl. Afric. Austral. 176. 1836, nom. cons.

罗顿豆属 *luo dun dou shu*

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Ononis sect. *Lotononis* Candolle, Prodr. 2: 166. 1825.

Herbs [or shrublets], annual or perennial. Stipules distinct. Leaves digitately 3-foliolate, usually petiolate. Inflorescences leaf-opposed, umbellate [or racemose], long pedunculate. Calyx cuplike, most abaxial tooth narrowly triangular and longest but other 4 teeth \pm joined in pairs. Corolla standard ovate or obovate, glabrous, claw short; wings sometimes much shorter than standard; keel rounded at apex. Stamens 10, connate into a dorsally split sheath; anthers dimorphic, 4 longer and basifixed, 6 shorter and dorsifixed. Ovary sessile; ovules many; style incurved; stigma terminal. Legume subsessile, slightly inflated, usually many seeded. Seeds without an aril; funicle threadlike.

About 100 species: Africa, S Asia, S Europe; one species (introduced) in China.

1. *Lotononis bainesii* Baker, Fl. Trop. Afr. 2: 6. 1871.

罗顿豆 *luo dun dou*

Herbs, perennial, prostrate, mat-forming, 0.3–1.8 m wide. Stems slender, decumbent, branching and rooting at nodes, glabrous or sparsely puberulent. Stipules ovate, 4–10 mm, one smaller than other, base auriculate, apex acute. Leaves 3-foliolate, apical one larger; petiole 6–7.5 mm; leaflet blades linear-elliptic to lanceolate, 1.5–4 \times 0.6–1 cm, glabrous or sparsely puberulent, base cuneate, apex rounded and mucronate. Inflorescences umbellate heads, 8–12-flowered; bracts and bracteoles minute, inconspicuous; peduncle to 25 cm. Flowers sessile. Calyx 3–4 mm. Corolla bright yellow, ca. 1 cm; standard orbicular to oblong, long clawed; wings obliquely ovate to oblong; keel 8–9 mm, incurved and obtuse, longer than standard. Legume linear, 7–12 \times 2–3 mm, white villous, with a curved beak. Seeds ca. 1 mm in diam.

Cultivated in Taiwan [native to S Africa].

Lotononis bainesii is widely grown as a fodder crop. It is particularly suitable for red lateritic soils.

