

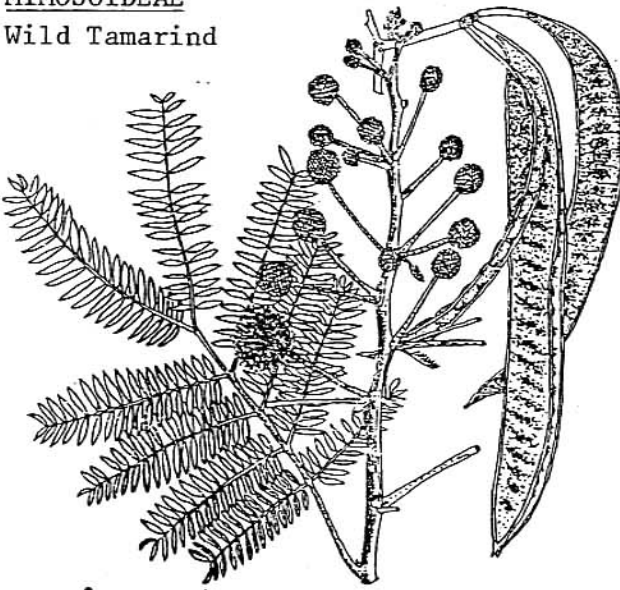
# LEGUMINOSAE

## 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

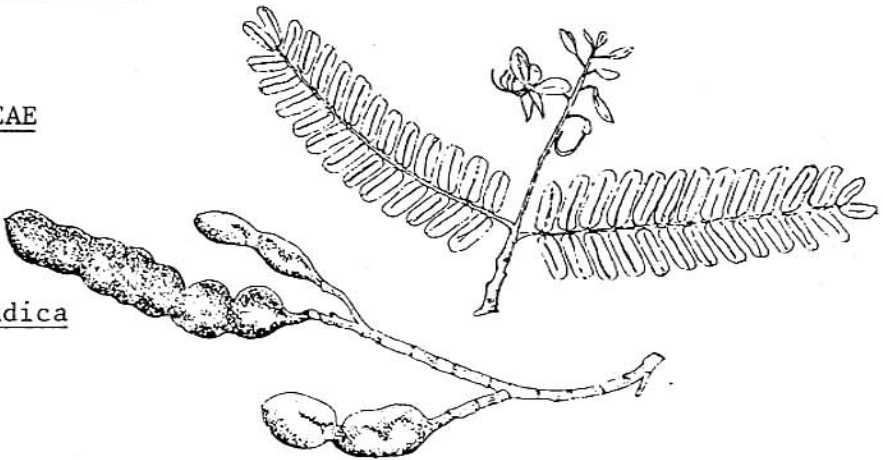
Crotalaria retusa



### CAESALPINOIDEAE

Tamarind ▶

Tamarindus indica



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