

40mm long; stipels 2-5mm long. Leaflets 30-180mm long, 40-200mm wide, angular or coarsely toothed or shallowly lobed along the upper margin, the tip drawn out into a short point, sparsely hairy on both surfaces.

Inflorescence an axillary raceme 50-700mm long, including the 0-200mm peduncle. Flowers borne in clusters of 1-5 within the axils of c. 3mm bracts, each on a c. 6mm pedicel which has a pair of very deciduous bracteoles at the tip. Calyx 6-10mm long, densely covered with adpressed brown hairs, the two upper sepals joined almost to the tip, the sepals otherwise joined for c. $\frac{1}{2}$ their length. Standard light blue to pale purple or white, with a green area at the base, c. 13mm tall, 12mm wide. Wings c. 18mm long from base of calyx.

Pod 75-140mm long, 11-18mm wide, slightly

indented along upper and lower margins, densely covered with adpressed hairs, straight or curved, containing 4-12 seeds. Seeds 8-10mm long, 7-10mm wide, rather flattened, oval to roundish, pale brown to purplish black.

Distribution: Co. Occasionally found naturalized in wetter districts of north Queensland. Native of tropical America, also introduced to Indonesia and P.N.G.

Notes: Unpalatable to stock. Widely cultivated in the wet tropics for its edible tubers and pods, although the tubers may sometimes be toxic. Seeds have been used as a fish-poison; they contain the glucoside pachyrrhizid, pachyrrhizine, various saponins and rotenone. Nodulates.

References: 3, 16, 121, 306, 309.

Paratephrosia

Grey woody shrub, the leaves pinnate, with three leaflets, or with a single leaflet, lacking stipels. Flowers orange, small, in dense racemes. Stamens 10, 9 filaments joined in a dorsally split tube, the other free except about the middle. Style flattened, hairless. Pod single-seeded.

An endemic monospecific Australian genus closely related to the more common and widespread *Tephrosia*.

Paratephrosia lanata

Woody perennial grey shrub to 2m tall. Young stems densely covered with short silky hairs. Stipules 2-4mm long, adpressed, persistent. Leaves usually with three leaflets, occasionally with one. Petiole 3-10mm, rachis 2-5mm long. Leaflets grey, 12-40mm long, 4-22mm wide, broadest at or above the mid-point, the margins curving to the broadly angled or rounded mucronate tip and more or less tapering to the base, densely covered with silky silvery hairs on both surfaces.

Inflorescence a dense sometimes leafy raceme up to 80mm long including the short peduncle, borne terminally or in upper leaf axils, or flowers single in upper leaf axils. Calyx 5-7mm long, hairy, the sepals joined only towards the base, the teeth narrow and finely pointed, densely covered with silky spreading hairs. Standard c. 4mm tall, 6mm wide, orange on the front, yellow and hairy on the back. Wings pink-tipped.

Pod 8-12mm long, c. 5mm wide, flattened,



Paratephrosia lanata, Mt Isa, 20°43'S, 139°30'E.

grey when ripe, containing a single seed, falling entire.

Distribution: Bk. Also N.T., W.A. Quartzite ridges and arid sandy soils in the far north-west.

Notes: Of no grazing significance.

Reference: 172.