

Vetches

Vicia spp.



Life cycle

Climbing or trailing annual, biennial or perennial vines.

Leaves

Alternate, pinnately compound with several pairs of opposite, narrowly oblong leaflets. The terminal leaflet is modified into a branched, twining tendril used to climb.

Stems

Ascending, climbing or trailing stems are herbaceous but may become woody with age.



Twining tendril of vetch.



Pinnately compound leaf of vetch.

Flowers and fruit

Blue, purple or reddish pealike flowers are borne on short stalks in the upper leaf axils or found crowded along one side of long, bare stalks. Fruit are variously sized pealike pods.

Reproduction

Seeds or rhizomes.



Vetch flowers.



Pealike pods of vetch.