

## VICIA

Mature fruits are required for identification of many of the species in this genus, and should be collected for herbarium specimens.

### 1. *Vicia sylvatica*

The prostrate, dwarf coastal var. *condensata* has been recorded in V.c. 4, 50, 70, 73, 74, 100, 101 and H39. It is distinguished from typical *V. sylvatica* L. as follows:

**Var. *sylvatica*:** Stems 50-100 cm, weak, trailing or scrambling. Leaves 4-8 cm. Leaflets 12-20, more or less distant, 8-18 × 4-8 mm, ovate to ovate-oblong or elliptical, thin in texture. Tendrils 2-7 cm, 2- to 4- branched. Peduncles 5-18 cm. Raceme usually distinctly exceeding the leaves, lax, with 8-20 flowers. Corolla 15-20 mm. Open woods, scrub, rocky slopes, sea-cliffs.

**Var. *condensata* Druce:** Stems 20-50 cm, somewhat rigid, procumbent to decumbent, forming compact patches and low hummocks. Leaves 2.5-5 cm. Leaflets 8-14, rather crowded, 6-10(-12) × 3-6 mm, ovate to suborbicular or broadly elliptical, slightly fleshy, often glaucous. Tendrils 1-4 cm, unbranched or 1- to 3-branched. Peduncles 2-5 cm. Raceme about as long as or only slightly exceeding leaves, compact, with 4-8(-12) flowers. Corolla 13-18 mm. Coastal shingle, sea-cliffs.

**Reference** Akeroyd, J. R. (1996). *Watsonia* **21**: 71-78.

**Author** J. R. Akeroyd, January 1998.

### 2. *Vicia sepium*

The dwarf, prostrate coastal sand dune var. *hartii* is known from V.c.103, 108-109, H27 and H35. It can be distinguished from typical *V. sepium* L. as follows:

**Var. *sepium*:** Stems 30-120 cm, ascending, climbing or trailing. Leaves 3-7 cm. Leaflets 8-18, 8-30(-40) × 4-12(-18) mm, ovate to ovate-oblong, subacute, obtuse or truncate. Tendrils 1-3 cm, 1- to 4-branched. Hedges, woodland margins and scrub; widespread in Europe.

**Var. *hartii* Akeroyd:** Stems 5-20(-35) cm, procumbent, decumbent or weakly ascending, forming mats and low hummocks. Leaves 2-4 cm. Leaflets 6-14, 5-13 × 3-5 mm, ovate to elliptical or suborbicular, truncate to rounded. Tendrils 0.5-2 cm, usually unbranched or 1- to 2-branched, often absent or vestigial, sometimes replaced by a terminal leaflet. Sand-dunes.

**Reference** Akeroyd, J. R. (1996). *Watsonia* **21**: 71-78.

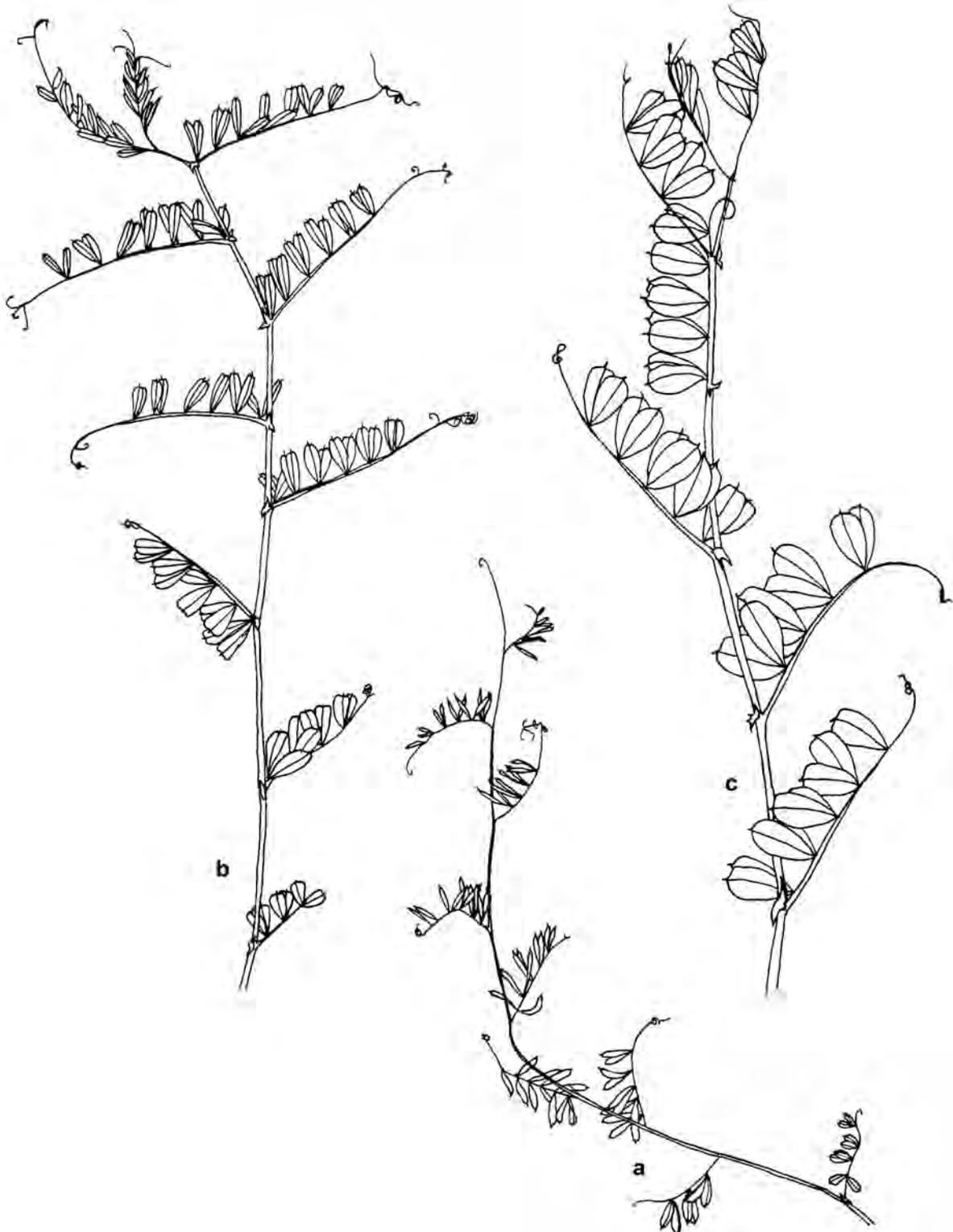
**Author** J. R. Akeroyd, January 1998.

### 3. *Vicia sativa* aggregate

The taxonomy of this species aggregate has been much confused in the past, owing in part to former cultivated strains having escaped. The four British segregates, *V. lathyroides*, *V. sativa* subsp. *nigra*, subsp. *segetalis* and subsp. *sativa* differ by increasing size of most of their parts (and in that order). However, there is some overlap so that these characters are not alone sufficient for distinguishing the species. The leaflets on the lowest leaves of the flowering shoot are often markedly shorter

# Plant Crib

and broader than those on the upper leaves which bear flowers in their axils; plants with this character well-developed are termed heterophyllous.



*Vicia sativa* subspecies showing variation in leaves (a) subsp. *nigra*, (b) subsp. *segetalis*, (c) subsp. *sativa*. Note subsp. *nigra* has much narrower upper leaves than the other taxa.

# Plant Crib

---

- |   |   |                                |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Seeds tuberculate; flowers dull purple, 9 mm long or less   | <i>V. lathyroides</i>          |
| 1 | Seeds smooth; flowers bright purple or bi-coloured, more than 9 mm long                                     | ( <i>V. sativa</i> ) 2         |
| 2 | Pods yellow brown, constricted between seeds; flowers (11-)22-25(-30) mm, bi-coloured (rare)                | <b>subsp. <i>sativa</i></b>    |
| 2 | Pods dark brown-black, not constricted between seeds; flowers (9-)12-19(-26) mm, concolorous or bi-coloured | 3                              |
| 3 | Plant markedly heterophyllous; flowers bright, concolorous  | <b>subsp. <i>nigra</i></b>     |
| 3 | Plant not, or scarcely heterophyllous; flowers usually bi-coloured  | <b>subsp. <i>segetalis</i></b> |

*V. lathyroides* L.: Strongly heterophyllous; tendrils simple; flowers 6-9 mm, concolorous (usually dull purple); pods 18-30 mm, brown to black, smooth, glabrous; seeds tuberculate. The first taxa to flower.

*V. sativa* L. subsp. *nigra* (L.) Ehrh.: Strongly heterophyllous (Fig. a); tendrils branched; flowers (9-)12-17(-19) mm, concolorous (usually bright purple); pods 23-28(-45) mm, brown to black, smooth or bristly; seeds smooth.

*V. sativa* L. subsp. *segetalis* (Thuill.) Gaudin: More or less isophyllous (Fig. b); tendrils branched; flowers (9-)13-19(-26) mm, bi-coloured (with standard petal paler than the wings); pods 28-70 mm, brown to black, smooth, usually glabrous; seeds smooth.

*V. sativa* L. subsp. *sativa*: More or less isophyllous (Fig. c); tendrils branched; flowers (11-)22-25(-30) mm, bi-coloured (with standard petal paler than the wings); pods (36-)50-80 mm, yellowish to brown, constricted between the seeds, often pilose; seeds smooth.

- References** Hollings, E. & Stace, C. A. (1978). *Watsonia* **12**: 1-14.  
Killick, H. J. (1975). *Watsonia* **10**: 288-289.  
Killick, H. J., Perry, A. R. & Woodell, S. R. J. (1998, in press). *The Flora of Oxfordshire*. Nature Conservation Bureau, Newbury.

**Author** H. J. Killick, December 1997.