

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

B. Legumes

13. Vetch

a. *Vicia benghalensis* L. (Syn. *V. atropurpurea* Desf.) (purple vetch)

cv. Popany

Reg. No. B-13c-1

Registered march 1972

Published in the Journal of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science, March 1972

Origin

Derived from seed obtained in 1952 from the Estacao Agronomica Nacional, Sacavem, Portugal, under their number 8207, and given the CPI number 16632. It was selected on the basis of trials in Perth (1), and later proved to be the best of a group tested by farmers in the Brookton area of Western Australia. Seed was supplied to W. Haslam, Popanyinning, who has developed it to commercial levels. Breeders' seed is held by CSIRO, Western Australia. Submitted by E.T. Bailey, CSIRO, Perth, and recommended for registration by Western Australian Herbage Plant Liaison Committee. Registered March, 1972.

Morphological description (2)

Villous annual or short-lived perennial (rarely under Australian conditions), twining or sprawling, 20-80 (-150) cm. Leaflets 5-9 pairs, 10-25 x 1.5-6 mm, linear, oblong or elliptical. Leaves with a terminal branching tendril. Stipules entire or dentate. Racemes axillary, peduncles about as long as the subtending leaf with 2-12 (-30) flowers. Calyx strongly gibbous at the base, the teeth unequal, the upper two usually very short, and the lower three much longer than the tube. Corolla 10-18 mm, longer than the calyx, reddish purple and usually black-tipped. Limb of the standard about half as long as the claw. Pod 25-40 x 8-11 mm, brown, pubescent, very short stipitate. Seeds 3-5, globular, usually velvety black with a prominent white hilum.

Agronomic characters

Purple vetch is used for a variety of purposes but has its main use sown as a mixture with cereals for producing good quality hay. The commercial material is too late except for areas with 760 mm or more annual rainfall. Trials in W.A. have enabled a number of lines of differing maturity to be selected and the line for which registration is sought is one of the earlier, and suitable for growing in the 500-630 mm rainfall areas.

References

1. Bailey, E.T. (1963). *Vicia atropurpurea* - promising strains. Quarterly list of introduction No. 74: 13a.
- Ball, P.W. (1968). *Vicia* in Flora Europaea. 2: 132.