

## INTRODUCTION.

The soya bean has been usually referred to in literature as Glycine hispida, but recent investigations have elucidated the botanical history of the plant, so that under the International Rules of botanical nomenclature it is now referred to as Glycine max, or under the American rules as Soja max.

Early records of its cultivation appear in ancient Chinese literature. The wild form, Glycine soja, is a native of Eastern Asia, and is still found in China, Manchuria and Korea. In its native form it exhibits a twining habit with slender stems, but intermediate types between this and the typical upright habit of cultivated varieties are of frequent occurrence.

## BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION.

Order Leguminosae; Tribe Papilionatae; Family Phaseoleae.

The root system consists of a main tap root with numerous secondaries. The cultivated varieties exhibit a sympodial habit of growth, the plant being typically short and erect. All parts of the plant are hairy.

The leaves are arranged alternately, and consist of three leaflets borne on long petioles.

The flowers are produced on short axillary or terminal racemes and are very small. The style elongates as the anthers dehisce and is pollinated before the flower opens, so that self-pollination is the rule. Cross pollination has been known to occur up to two per cent, though it is usually much less than this. Such natural crossing is caused by insects.

The fruit is a dehiscent pod, containing up to three beans. The pods are borne on short stalks occurring in clusters.