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Adenanthera

Leguminosae

[*Fabaceae/Mimosaceae*]

Adenanthera is for some authorities made up of Greek *adeno-* (gland) and *anthera* (anther, the stamen tip) components with reference to part of the male reproductive organ and for others it is Arabic (goldsmith).

The seeds were/are traditional jewellers' weights in India (and Malaysia) under the Ganda tradition, used especially by diamond merchants and apothecaries. A seed weighs approximately 4 grains ($\frac{1}{4}$ gram) and some authorities believe they were used before the lighter jequirity (*Abrus precatorius*) seeds (2 grains) which were preferred in bygone times by grain merchants.

Members of this family absorb nitrogen from the air. Through the bacterial nodules on their deep growing roots, they will introduce nitrogen to the soil (and aerate it) to the benefit of neighbouring plants and any following them in the same soil.