

Crotalaria, n. [Gr. *krotalon*, a rattle.] (Bot.) A very extensive genus of tropical herbs or shrubs of the order *Fabaceae*, the most important of which is the *C. juncea*, the *Sun*, *Sunn*, or *Shunum Hemp* of India, a plant extensively cultivated for its fibre, which is considered equal, if not superior, to Russian hemp. The genus is represented in this country by *C. sagittalis*, the Rattle-box, a plant about a foot high, with a hairy aspect, and inflated pods, in woods and sandy fields, N. H. to Ark. Stem herbaceous, rigid. Leaves alternate, entire, nearly sessile, rounded at the base. The plant is best distinguished by its opposite, united, decurrent stipules, so situated that each pair appears inversely sagittate. Sepals long, hairy. Corolla small, yellow. Seeds few, rattling in the turgid pod. It blossoms in June.