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Origin of *Lotus corniculatus*

L. corniculatus is probably a segmental allotetraploid derived from crossing two or more fairly closely related diploid forms. Among diploids of the *L. corniculatus* group are several species which have many of the characteristics required in an ancestor of *L. corniculatus* e.g. *L. alpinus*, *L. japonicus* or *L. borbasii*. Plants of *L. corniculatus* and *L. pedunculatus* often have flavanol polymers ("tannins"), but these are lacking in small samples of *L. alpinus*, *L. japonicus*, *L. filicaulis*, *L. krylovii* and *L. schoelleri*. It seems therefore that *L. pedunculatus* merits further consideration as a possible ancestral species of *L. corniculatus*.