



**The Terrestrial
Plants of the
Rickett's Point
Urban Sanctuary:
Beaumaris 3193**

Lauran Boyce & John Buckeridge

The Terrestrial Plants of the Rickett's Point Urban Sanctuary: Beaumaris Vic 3193

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MESAC (Marine Education, Science & Community)

Rickett's Point Marine Education, Science and Community Centre
(MESAC)

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Introduction

The Urban Sanctuary Series

This book is the fourth in the series on the biology of the Rickett's Point Marine Sanctuary, Beaumaris, Victoria. It is preceded by *The Algae and Marine Invertebrates of Rickett's Point* (2012), *Sea and Land Birds of the Urban Sanctuary: Rickett's Point* (2016) and *The fossils of the Urban Sanctuary* (2017), making this an exceptionally well documented sanctuary. Importantly, these books represent a "snap-shot" of the biodiversity at the time each was published. All four books have relied heavily upon observations and photographs taken by citizen scientists, this has resulted in broad community ownership of the books – an outcome that is indeed pleasing and appropriate.

Plants

Plants are eukaryotes (i.e. organisms in which the cells have both a rigid wall and a nucleus that is enclosed by a membrane – unlike prokaryotes such as bacteria, wherein the nucleus is not bound by a membrane). Plants are also autotrophs, meaning that they make their own food through the process of photosynthesis, during which sunlight, water and carbon dioxide are converted into carbohydrates. This process distinguishes them from animals and fungi, both of which gain nutrients from either living or decaying organic substances. Some marine plants (e.g. green algae, or Chlorophyta, and flowering plants, or Angiospermae) occur at Rickett's Point and were included in *The Algae and Marine Invertebrates of Rickett's Point*. They are not referenced in this book, which deals specifically with land plants.

Plants of the Urban Sanctuary deals primarily with macroscopic tracheophytes (i.e. larger vascular plants, rather than non-vascular plants such as some algae, liverworts, lycopods and mosses). Tracheophytes are characterized by the specialized cells that they possess; in angiosperms (the majority of tracheophytes), these cells include xylem (for transportation of water and minerals) and phloem (for transportation of carbohydrates manufactured in the leaves).

Non-vascular plants tend to be restricted to moist zones; they are, except when in association with fungi (e.g. lichens), uncommon outside damp environments. Although bryophytes may be found in areas ranging from arid to rainforest, and in habitat from sea-level to alpine, they are most abundant in less polluted areas. Bryophytes lack true roots, instead having root-like anchoring structures, called rhizoids, although these, unlike roots of most plants, do not actively extract minerals and water from the substrate. As the climate at present-day Beaumaris is dry-temperate, not many ecological niches exist that would suit bryophytes; nonetheless, mosses and liverworts do occur in some shaded places at Rickett's Point, but are not abundant.

Bayside is classified as a leafy suburb, and those of us who are lucky enough to live in it certainly benefit from the abundant plants that are a feature. Although the open coastal woodland that occurs at Beaumaris seems substantial when one is within it, its area is small in comparison to the plants that line the local streets. But surprisingly, the latter comprise only about 30% of trees within Bayside, with almost 65% of the vegetation growing within private gardens. Trees are important for humans, they provide shade and moderate temperature (through transpiration), and habitats for birds, small mammals, insects and other invertebrates.

Australia has a very unusual botanical inventory, in part this is due to our isolation, in part due to the aridity of the present climate. Our forests are dominated by myrtles – which include *Eucalyptus* spp. – a dominance that began in the Neogene – at about the time the Beaumaris Sandstone was being deposited. This dominance intensified after the arrival of the first humans some 55 000 years ago, who through the use of fire, accentuated the process that changed the rainforest to today's more open and more fire resistant, sclerophyll forest communities. There are more than 900 living species of *Eucalyptus*, four of which are found in this sanctuary. Significantly, all but nine of the 900 are endemic to Australia. *Eucalypts* flourish from temperate to tropical ecosystems (where they have significantly reduced diversity in rainforests) and are only absent from alpine and very arid regions.

¹ Note that in modern taxonomy some biologists group “algae” within the Monera, alongside bacteria. They are thus outside what is generally accepted as the Plantae. For convenience, they are herein retained in the informal category “non-vascular plants”.



Figure 1: Zonation or “habitat stratification” of terrestrial plants at Rickett’s Point, Victoria. Most of us are aware of how animal species form in discrete zones in the shallower waters around Port Phillip, e.g. the upper intertidal is characterised by barnacle species such as *Chthamalus antennatus*, the mid-tidal by the polychaete *Galeolaria caespitosa*. In the sea, organisms form in zones on the basis of how they are able to adapt to things like predation pressure, sunlight, salinity and temperature. Zonation in terrestrial plants is determined by things such as rapidity of growth, sunlight, water and resistance to desiccation – including the ability to survive salt-laden, on-shore breezes. This image shows a lower zone of marram grass (*Ammophila*) immediately behind which is a lower shrub stratification comprising the grey-green saltbush *Altriplex cinereal*. Behind and above the saltbush is a greenish-yellow zone of *Acacia*. The highest trees, on the skyline at the back, are *Allocasuarina* and *Banksia* – and these form the woodland canopy.

We are still learning about plants, in particular the way in which they communicate with each other – and with insects. There is clearly very much more to discover, and that is what makes botany such a compelling science.

Treeconomics

The open coastal woodland that fringes the Rickett's Point Marine Sanctuary is protected under local government legislation. Irrespective of this, there are some individuals who see the trees as an inconvenient obstruction to their sea views. Although there are penalties for those caught felling or poisoning trees in the sanctuary, large trees are still vandalized, and sometimes destroyed. In August 2018, a large *Eucalyptus* at the end of Reserve Road in the sanctuary died (Figure 2). There are at least three possible reasons for this:

1. The tree died of natural causes (however it was not large, nor was it an old tree).
2. The tree was destroyed by infestation of insect borers, e.g. the long horned beetle (Family Cerambycidae), and there is evidence of this (Figure 2 inset).
3. The tree was deliberately poisoned by humans.

Although some limbs of the tree had died, and showed evidence of infestation (see inset Figure 2), the tree seemed healthy in February. It cannot be ruled out that it was killed to improve a view.



Figure 2: A medium size *Eucalyptus* that died in mid 2018. The tree was not old, but it was infested with insect borings such as the Longhorned beetle (inset). Nonetheless, the conclusion that death was premature – brought on by individuals who desired a better sea view, cannot be dismissed.

There is an unfortunate tendency for some people to value things solely from an economic perspective. It is clear that a large woody tree will have some value if felled and used for timber. But surely it is unacceptable if the value of something can only be determined upon the death. So, how do (or how should) citizens and local authorities value our natural environment – in the growing knowledge that unabated human consumption is resulting in the loss of many thousands of hectares of forest each year? Where there is a will there is, more often than not, a way. And one way that is gaining popularity is “Treeconomics” – a methodology through which plants can be assessed as economic units. Treeconomics is a non-government initiative, based in the United Kingdom, that works with community groups, research organisations, public bodies and private business to complete projects which highlight the value of trees (<http://www.treeconomics.co.uk/>). The underlying rationale for treeconomics is that “Once you value and understand a resource, you can start to manage it, making sure it provides benefits for future generations”.

What lies beneath

Plants first colonized the land in the Palaeozoic. The first tracheophytes (or vascular plants) are found in rocks of Silurian age (circa 430 million years old) at County Tipperary in Ireland and also in 425 million-year-old rocks at Yea in Victoria (Figure 3). Although Silurian rocks do not outcrop at Beaumaris, boreholes drilled for groundwater and geotechnical investigation demonstrate that rocks of that age do underlie Rickett’s Point.



Figure 3: *Baragwanathia longifolia* W.H. Lang and Cookson, 1935. Fossils of this very early tracheophyte are known from Silurian rocks in the Yea-Alexandra area of Central Victoria. *Baragwanathia* was a club-moss or lycophyte and surprisingly, grew up to about 600 mm in height. It is not a great leap of faith to expect that some of these early fossils lie deep beneath the ground of the sanctuary. Specimen courtesy of F. McSweeney.

There are nonetheless more recent fossil plants preserved in rocks at Rickett's Point, with numerous fossilized casts (= soft sediment impressions) of tree trunks exposed at low tide along the shore platform (Figure 4). Most of these casts represent long trunks with minimal branching and are not unlike tall eucalypts such as *Eucalyptus regnans*. *E. regnans* now grows in Victoria's Dandenong Ranges. If these impressions were made by this species, it is likely that it was transported to the coast during storms, losing smaller branches and leaves in the process. Upon entering the marine realm, the tree-trunk was bored by marine organisms. In the example figured, the borings are very similar to the marine shipworm *Teredo navalis*, which despite its name is a bivalve mollusc.



Figure 4: Fossil tree cast exposed on the wave-cut platform in the Rickett's Point Marine Sanctuary. These imprints formed when trees (*Eucalyptus* sp.) were washed to the coast following storms, became waterlogged, sunk to the seabed and were bored by marine organisms. After burial in soft sediment, all traces of the wood were lost, but the impression of the bark, and the borings, remain. These casts are preserved within the 6 million-year-old Beaumaris Sandstone. Top left inset: enlarged view of lower right yellow square, showing the burrows produced by the wood borer, ?*Teredo* sp. Scale: coin diameter is 41 mm.

Using this book

Plant names: If you are interested in knowing about plants, you will need to understand the identification system that botanists use. Thus, when armed with the plant's scientific name and a computer, you can quickly determine a plethora of characteristics about that plant – its abundance (how common it is), its distribution (where it has been recorded) and any special aspects, such as its reproduction methods and what feeds upon it. Taxonomy is the theory and practice of describing, naming, and classifying organisms. When botanists name plants, a binomial system is utilized, e.g. the mountain ash *Eucalyptus regnans* F. Muell. 1871 was described by the Victorian botanist Ferdinand von Müller in 1871. It includes a genus name (*Eucalyptus*) that it shares with other similar species, and a unique species name *regnans*. If there is an accent in the author's name, this is adjusted accordingly, so that ü becomes "ue". Unlike the system employed by zoologists, surnames of species authors are often abbreviated in botany, and first name initials are more often than not included. When a binomial is first used in a text, the full name should be given. Later usage is generally abbreviated, e.g. *Eucalyptus regnans* F. Muell. 1871 becomes *E. regnans*.

This book has not been designed to dwell on the species concept, which in botany is debated with rather more passion than in zoology. Traditionally, zoologists define a species on whether it can reproduce with its own kind to produce viable offspring (i.e. offspring that are reproduce). In botany, hybridization seems to be much more prevalent than is the case with animals... and many plant hybrids are remarkably fecund. As such, in a decade or so, you may find significant name changes to those that we have used in this book. Old names will however still be searchable (on the web) and when accepted, become junior synonyms. For each entry in this book, a list of common names and junior synonyms is provided.

Structure of this book: This book is arranged with Fungi first, followed by lichens, as these two groups are not true plants. They are followed by the Bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) and then the Pteridophytes (ferns). The next section includes the larger tracheophytes: Gymnospermae (e.g. conifers) and Angiospermae (flowering plants). The gymnosperms are uncommon in the sanctuary and are generally found as larger trees. For convenience, they are included with the angiosperms under "Large Trees".

Terminology: As some of the words used to describe these plants may be unfamiliar to readers, a glossary is provided.

Plant descriptions: For each plant, a description of key characteristics of the species, its habitat, its time of flowering/fruiting, its geographic distribution and its abundance within the sanctuary is provided. When a time period for an event, such as flowering is provided (e.g. Sep-Dec), the dates indicate when the event is most likely to occur.

Distribution: For each species, the distribution in Australian states is provided. If the species is an Australian native, it is classified as "endemic". Plants that have been brought to Australia (generally by humans) are classified as "introduced".

The primary source for plant distribution is the *Atlas of Living Australia* (ALA). This invaluable on-line tool ([see https://www.ala.org.au/](https://www.ala.org.au/)) is the basis for the distribution of each entry in the book. The ALA is a collaborative, national project that aggregates biodiversity data from multiple sources – importantly, enthusiasts who love and record biota may enter data based on their own observations into the database. The ALA freely available and easy to use online.

Abundance: The rarity or abundance of plants in the sanctuary is designated by green squares below:



Almost all of the plants listed in this book are accompanied by a photograph.

Acknowledgements:

This book is representative of knowledge of many naturalists and professional scientists; it is a culmination their effort and enthusiasm – which has provided distribution data, photographs and confirmed identifications. Each photograph is attributed to a photographer. We specifically acknowledge John Eichler (Naturalist, Cheltenham) and Ray Lewis (Naturalist, Beaumaris). Generous grants to offset publication costs were provided by Bayside City Council, Victoria, the School of Science, RMIT University, the Marine Education, Science & Community Centre, Beaumaris and the International Union of Biological Sciences (Paris). Finally, it was the impetus provided by Ray Lewis, to whom we have earlier referred, that provided the spark that was to begin this process.

John St J. S. Buckeridge
Beaumaris, VIC 3193
July 2018

This field guide would not have come together without the helping hand of graphic designer Kristal Lava. Her skills and knowledge of *Indesign* were instrumental in executing the final touches on the book. I would also like to thank my family and friends for supporting me through all my academic endeavours.

L. Boyce
Spotswood, Vic 3015
October 2018

First Peoples Acknowledgment

The land on which The Terrestrial Plants of the Rickett's Point Sanctuary is based, is the traditional land of the Boonwurrung people of the Kulin nation, may we acknowledge them and pay our respects to elders past and present. The history of the Boonwurrung people dates back thousands of years, when Port Phillip Bay was once a flat plain (Boon Wurrung Foundation 2013). They lived sustainably on the land through a semi-nomadic lifestyle, predominantly hunting and gathering, with evidence of them applying early farming practices across Port Phillip Bay.

Basidiomycete



≈90mm

Fungi sp.

Wood-ear Fungus

Description: A fungus is made up of a microscopic network of underground threads called a mycelium. The part we see above ground, referred to as the mushroom, is the spore producing structure that the fungi uses to reproduce.

Fungi are not plants, they are simply included in this book as they are often mistaken as such.

Fungi are heterotrophs, meaning they feed on organic matter to survive. They do not photosynthesize like plants do.

Habitat: Macrofungi, such as the one above, are terrestrial and found in a variety of habitats.

Distribution: All States.

Abundance:





Lichen spp.

Description: A lichen is not a single organism, it is a symbiosis between different organisms - a fungus and an algae or cyanobacterium (Australian National Botanic Gardens 2012). Most lichens consist of one fungal partner and one or more photosynthesizing partners.

Lichens can reproduce asexually by vegetative propagation, or sexually via spores.

Lichens though a combination of two biological kingdoms are called species and are classified according to their fungus counterpart.

Habitat: Grow in a wide range of habitats and are known to inhabit areas with extreme conditions.

Distribution: All States

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photo 1: L. Boyce, 2: J. Buckeridge

Lophocoleaceae



Chiloscyphus semiteres Lehm. & Lindenb.

—
Liverwort

Description: *Chiloscyphus* is a large and diverse leafy liverwort genus, easily be confused for the related *Heteroscyphus*.

A Liverwort is a flowerless plant that reproduces via spores. They have two forms depending on the genus; a leafy liverwort as above, has stems and leaves; a thallose liverwort has a flat green sheet, wrinkled or lobed.

Habitat: Variable species that can be found in a wide range of habitats and substrates.

Distribution: All States.

Abundance: ■



Moss spp.

Description: A moss is a flowerless, spore-producing plant. The spores develop in small capsules, often occurring on stalks

Moss stems are weak and usually short. There are two growth forms for mosses; erect and creeping, with the creeping type sometimes hanging from branches like a curtain.

Moss are extremely difficult to identify in the field, however it is thought that photo 1 (left) may be *Dawsonia* sp.

Habitat: Mainly in damp and shaded areas, with some species growing in seasonally dry areas such as alpine ridges or sand dunes.

Distribution: All States.

Abundance: 

Photo 1: L. Boyce, 2: J. Buckeridge

Dennstaedtiaceae



Pteridium esculentum (G.Forst.) Cockayne

Common name: Bracken

Description: Rhizome thick and woody, covered with dark red-brown hairs, shedding. Fronds erect, rigid; stalk long and woody, red-brown, glabrous. Leaf blade 3–4 pinnate, wedge-shaped, dark green, older fronds glabrous above with fine hairs below. Rachises shallowly grooved, often appearing twisted; minor rachises with narrow, green lobes between pinnae; pinnae opposite or alternate, stiff; pinnules linear, tightly recurved margin; lower surface with numerous, appressed, white hairs; brownish hairs along midveins; veins sunken, midvein conspicuous.

Habitat: Growing in a wide range of fairly open habitats, avoids poorly drained soils, uncommon above approximately 1000 m.

Distribution: Endemic. All States.

Abundance:



Photo 1: L. Boyce, 2: J. Buckeridge

Basellaceae

CLIMBERS AND CREEPERS



≈10mm

Anredera cordifolia (Ten.) Steenis

Common name: Madeira Vine

Description: Vigorous climbing vine, producing root tubers and aerial tubers on stem nodes.

Leaves ovate, fleshy; blades slightly discoloured; leaf apex obtuse; base cordate; margins often wavy.

Flower-head a raceme, drooping, stamens almost equal to petals; numerous pale cream flowers, soon blackening, sweet and faint aniseed fragrance.

Flowering Apr–May.

Habitat: Grown as a screening vine on fences, trellises, sheds etc. has become naturalized more widely, especially in coastal districts. Propagation via tubers as is not known to produce viable seeds.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, Tas, NSW, SA, QLD & WA.
Native to South America.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photos: Forest & Kim Starr

ANGIOSPERMS

Asparagaceae



≈10mm

CLIMBERS AND CREEPERS

Asparagus asparagoides (L.) W.Wight

Common name: Bridal Creeper

Description: Climbing herb, growing from a short branching rhizome, producing clusters of tuberous roots. Cladodes broadly lanceolate, one in each axil, flat and glabrous with many veins.

Flowers one per axil, white to pale green; segments bent sharply backwards at tip, overlapping at base to form short tube; stamens shorter than perianth. Flowering Aug–Sep.

Fruit a red, nearly spherical berry; containing few to numerous seeds.

Habitat: Widespread noxious weed of coastal areas. Also a threat to mallee shrubland, dry sclerophyll forest and heath vegetation.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, Tas, NSW, ACT, QLD, SA & WA. Native to Eastern & Southern Africa.

Abundance: 

ANGIOSPERMS



≈10mm

Cassytha glabella R.Br.

Common name: Slender Dodder-laurel

Description: Small hairless twiner; stems thread-like, green, yellow or reddish in colour; haustoria usually less than 1mm long.

Leaves triangular-ovate, yellow-green. Flower-head a single or paired 2-10-flowered umbel cluster; flowers egg-shaped without stalk; sepals ovate, dry and membranous with white margins; petals white and ovate. Flowering throughout the year. Fruit is green, becoming reddish, glabrous.

Habitat: Many moist regions of Australia

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, Tas, NSW, ACT, QLD, SA & WA.

Abundance:



Photo: R. Lewis



≈10mm

Cassytha pubescens R.Br.

Common name: Downy Dodder-laurel syn. Spilled Devils Twine

Description: Weak to robust twiner, younger parts hairy, hairs white to red; stems cylindric with parallel ridges, hairy to hairless, yellow-green to reddish, with haustoria.

Leaves triangular-ovate, woolly to hairless.

Flower-head a single, or often paired, crowded 2–10-flowered spike, lower flowers sometimes far apart; Flowers egg-shaped, with small stalk or absent; Sepals triangular, coated with long reddish or whitish hairs; petals ovate, coated with grey, black, yellow or red hairs.

Flowers mostly summer.

Fruit smooth and white-haired, egg-shaped to almost spherical, drying to grey-black.

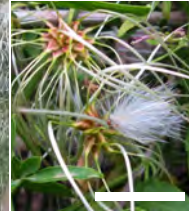
Habitat: Widespread throughout most of Victoria, particularly in lowland open-forest, often occurring abundantly after a bushfire.

Distribution: Endemic. All States.

Abundance: 

Photo: R. Lewis

Ranunculaceae



≈50mm

Clematis microphylla DC.

Common name: Small-leaved Clematis

Description: Dioecious, woody climber or trailer.

Leaves opposite, adult leaves arranged in groups; petioles twining or twisting; leaflets linear to ovate, glabrous; margins entire or appearing toothed on incompletely divided leaves.

Flowers in short panicles; sepals white to pale yellow, oblong to narrowly ovate; glabrous on upper surface, hairy under surface; male flowers with anthers; female flowers with staminodes.

Flowering Jun-Sep.

Fruit a flattened achene, ovate, margins thick and warty; feathery awn.

Habitat: On sandy or rocky soils along the coast and in drier inland sites.

Distribution: Endemic. All States.

Abundance:



Photos: R. Lewis

Asteraceae - Daisy Family



≈80mm

CLIMBERS AND CREEPERS

Delairea odorata Lem.

Common name: Cape Ivy

Description: Glabrous perennial twiner, slender stems.

Leaves pale green, sometimes with purple tinge, broad-ovate to orbicular; 3–7 lobes, base cordate, palmately 3–7 veined, fleshy; stipules kidney shaped.

Flower-head a capitula, containing 15-50 cylindrical flowers, all arising at different levels ending at same height; secondary bracts 2-4 below capitula; bracts surrounding florets 8-10, glabrous except for tuft of hairs on apex; Florets yellow, 10-12, all tubular with sweet fragrance.

Flowering May–Sep.

Fruit an achene, reddish-brown in colour, white pappus.

Habitat: Widespread in cool, moist areas of southern Victoria, often found in disturbed areas in gullies and around the edges of forests.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, Tas, NSW, SA, ACT & WA.

Native to Southern Africa.

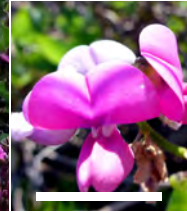
Abundance:



Photos: R. Lewis

ANGIOSPERMS

Fabaceae - Pea Family



≈10mm

Dipogon lignosus (L.) Verdc.

Common name: Dolichos Pea syn. Common Dipogon

Description: Vigorous twiner; stems slightly compressed.

Leaves with 3-leaflets, ovate to rhombic, glabrous; lower surface pale; stipules oblong to lanceolate, leafy, white hairs; secondary stipules at base of leaflets thread-like.

Flower-head many-flowers; bract lanceolate; bracteoles inserted below calyx; petiole lengthening and thickening when in fruit; Corolla pink-purple or white; large hind petal, folded together with 2 fleshy growths; wings obovate; keel semicircular, incurved, sickle-shaped with a purple beak. Flowering Sep–Jan.

Photos: R. Lewis

Fruit is a circular glabrous pod; seeds ovate, black with a white scar.

Habitat: Mainly on disturbed sandy soils near the coast where it has spread from areas of cultivation.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, Tas, NSW, QLD, ACT, SA & WA. Native to South Africa.

Abundance: ■ ■

Aizoaceae - Ice Plants



<10mm

Galenia pubescens (Eckl. & Zeyh.) Druch

Common name: Galenia

Description: Perennial woody herb growing flat on ground, or branching horizontally and turned up at ends.

Leaves ovate to spoon-shaped, shaggy, long soft hairs when young.

Perianth hairy outside, white inside, often with a pinkish tinge, yellowing with maturity; anthers pink, yellow or orange, often changing colour with age.

Fruit a capsule; seeds are black and shiny.

Habitat: Coastal regions, occasionally found in dryish saline areas and scattered on disturbed land eg. roadsides and railyards.

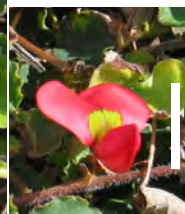
Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, SA, WA, Tas & NT.
Native to Southern Africa.

Abundance: 

Photo 1: H. Rose, 2: R. Cumming

Fabaceae - Pea Family

CLIMBERS AND CREEPERS



≈20mm

Kennedia prostrata R.Br.

Common name: Running Postman

Description: Twining herb, also grows flat on ground, stems wiry, hairy.

Leaf forming 3 leaflets, leaflets circular to obovate; upper surface glabrous, lower surface hairy; margins wavy, stipules cordate.

Flowers usually 1 or 2, hairy bracts remain attached after flowering; petals scarlet sometimes white; standard petal ovate with yellow mass at base; keel petal nearly as long as standard.

Flowering Aug-Nov.

Fruit a cylindric pod, hairy. Seeds 5-8 in number, egg-shaped.

Habitat: Widespread throughout Victoria where found in a variety of habitats.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, Tas, NSW, ACT, SA, QLD & WA.

Abundance:



Photos: R. Lewis

ANGIOSPERMS

Fabaceae - Pea Family



CLIMBERS AND CREEPERS

Kennedia rubicunda (Schneev.) Vent.

Common name: Dusky Coral-pea

Description: Twining herb, can grow across ground, stems up to 4m in length, rusty-hairy.

Leaf forming 3 leaflets, leaflets ovate to lanceolate, sometimes circular; rusty-hairy on both surfaces; stipules lanceolate.

Flower-head with 2-12 flowers, bracts falling early; calyx densely rusty-hairy, petals dark-red or purplish.

Flowering Sep-Oct.

Fruit an oblong pod, compressed, densely rusty-hairy; 10-15 seeds.

Habitat: Open-forests and on the edges of rainforests. Abundant after bush-fires.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, Tas, NSW, QLD & WA.

Common in far eastern Victoria.

Abundance:



ANGIOSPERMS

Polygonaceae



Muehlenbeckia adpressa (Labill.) Meisn.

Common name: Climbing Lignum

Description: Creeping or twining shrub, sometimes tangled to erect shrub. Leaves ovate to orbicular, often thick textured and shining, apex rounded, base cordate; margins finely curled. Flowers clustered in loose spikes, mostly protruding from leaf axil; stalks slightly longer than supporting bract; perianth segments free almost to base, yellow-green or reddish-tinged; female flowers elongating when in fruit. Flowering Sep–Jan. Fruit is an egg-shaped nut, faces flat, smooth and blackish in colour, with a lengthwise groove.

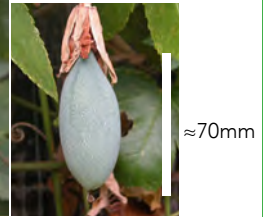
Habitat: Behind dunes, clifftops and around coastal swamp areas.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, Tas, NSW, SA & WA.

Abundance: 

Photos: R. Lewis

Passifloraceae



CLIMBERS AND CREEPERS

Passiflora tarminiana Coppens & V.E.Barney.

Common name: Banana Passionfruit

Description: Climber with hairy stems and petioles
Leaves deeply 3-lobed; undersurface of blade covered with velvety hairs, upper surface with hairs along veins; margins coarsely toothed; petiole with several small glands.
Flowers with green bracts fused for one third of their length; floral tube green outside; Petals pink.
Flowering Jan-Mar.
Fruit a yellow berry, oblong in shape.

Habitat: Cultivated in home gardens as ornamental climber, has been naturalized in scattered localities.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, Tas, NSW & SA. PNG.
Native to South America.

Abundance: ■

ANGIOSPERMS

Solanaceae - Nightshade Family

CLIMBERS AND CREEPERS



≈10mm

Salpichroa organifolia (Lam.) Thell.

Common name: Pampas Lily-of-the-valley

Description: Scrambling herb of the nightshade family, grown from rhizome with robust rootstock, sparsely to densely hairy throughout.

Leaves often grow 2 per node unequal in size, ovate to rhombic; both surfaces sparsely to densely hairy.

Flowers hanging on pedicels; calyx bell-shaped with triangular lobes, petals white or cream colour, urn-shaped.

Flowering mostly spring–autumn.

Fruit is a conical shaped berry, translucent white or pale yellow; Seeds winged, pale yellow.

Habitat: Mostly in urban wasteland; declared a noxious weed and difficult to eradicate due to the robust and extensive root system.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, Tas, NSW, ACT, SA, QLD & WA.

Native to South America.

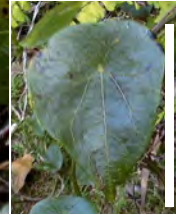
Abundance:



Photo 1: R. Lewis, 2: M. Stefani

ANGIOSPERMS

Menispermaceae



≈50mm

CLIMBERS AND CREEPERS

Stephania japonica (Thunb.) Miers

Common name: Snake Vine

Description: Climbing or twining vine with slender stems, male and female structures developing on different individuals.

Leaves shield-like with petiole attached to lower surface of leaf; blade circular or triangular.

Flower-head up to 8cm in length.

Flowering Sep-through Summer.

Fruit a drupe, egg-shaped, orange when young, turning red when mature.

Habitat: Within or on the edges of warm rainforest environments and in open forests. Also found in coastal areas and dune communities.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, QLD, WA & NT.
Native to East Asia.

Abundance:



ANGIOSPERMS

Poaceae - Grass Family



>100mm

Ammophila arenaria (L.) Link

Common name: Marram Grass

Description: Tufted perennial grass grown from a rhizome, often forming dense swards; erect, rigid culms. Leaves outer surface smooth, glabrous; inner surface ridged and hairy; Leaf blade tough, tightly inrolled; sheath glabrous; ligule narrow and forked. Flower-head dense, cylindrical panicle; glumes narrow, keeled. Flowering Sep-Feb.

Habitat: Sand dunes and coastal areas. Planted as a dune stabilizer, often replacing the native grass *Spinifex sericeus*.

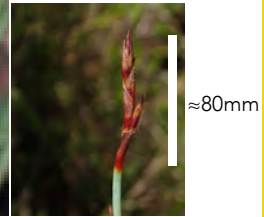
Distribution: Introduced. Vic, Tas, NSW, SA & WA. Native to Europe and North Africa.

Abundance:



Photo: R. Lewis

Poaceae - Grass Family



Baumea juncea (R.Br.) Palla

Common name: Bare Twig-rush

Description: Slender perennial with long rhizome. Culms rigid, circular in cross-section, 1–3-nodes, parallel ridges, glabrous.

Leaves growing from base and top; blade reduced; sheath straw-coloured to pale reddish or grey-brown, dull.

Flower-head narrow, erect; lowest bract shorter than flower-head. Spikelets few; glumes 4 or 5, red-brown to grey-brown, keel is scabby.

Flowering Spring–Summer.

Fruit is a nut, smooth with scattered pits, shiny, dark red-brown to black.

Habitat: Brackish lowland swamps and near-coastal saltmarshes, on sandy or dark silty soils.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, Tas, NSW, QLD, SA & WA.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Cyperaceae - Sedge Family



≈100mm

Carex pumila Thunb. ex Murray

Common name: Strand Sedge

Description: Rhizome very long, shoots loosely tufted. Culms smooth, erect, circular to triangular cross-section.

Leaves exceeding culms in length; sheath yellow-brown; ligule rounded to squared.

Flower-head narrow, erect, with 4–7 spikes solitary at nodes; lowest bracts exceeding flower-head; spikes without stalks, both male and female; male glumes yellow-brown to red-brown; utricles obscurely veined, glabrous, thick, corky, yellow-brown, occasionally tinged dark red-brown.

Flowering Spring

Fruit a nut, yellow-brown, triangular cross-section.

Habitat: Scattered on sand-dunes along coastlines, locally common and important as a sand-binder.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, QLD, ACT, SA & WA.
Native to New Zealand.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photo 1: R. Lewis, 2: J. Eichler

Poaceae - Grass Family



>100mm

Dichelachne crinita (L.f.) Hook.f.

Common name: Long-hair Plume-grass

Description: Tall tufted perennial, culms erect.

Leaves glabrous, blade flat or inrolled; upper surface scabrous; ligule papery. Flower-head a cylindric panicle; spikelets overlapping, obscuring the axis and branches; glumes narrow; awn wavy along margins.

Flowering Oct-Mar.

Habitat: Common near coastal regions and on volcanic plains.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, Tas, NSW, QLD, SA & WA.

Abundance:



Poaceae - Grass Family



Ehrharta erecta Lam.

Common name: Panic Veldt Grass

Description: Tufted perennial or annual grass, sprawling culms either bent or erect.

Leaf blades flat; margins scabrous, wavy towards base; ligules membranous.

Flower-head an open panicle; spikelets appressed to panicle branches; glumes green and glabrous.

Flowering mostly Sep-Mar.

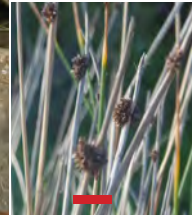
Habitat: Mainly on sandy soils, and regularly on loam and clay soils. Common weed of suburban gardens and the general environment.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, Tas, NSW, QLD, SA & WA.
Native to Southern Africa.

Abundance:



Cyperaceae - Sedge Family



≈20mm

Ficinia nodosa (Rottb.) Goetgh., Muasya & D.A.Simpson
syn. *Isolepsis nodosa*

Common name: Knobby Club-rush

Description: Perennial rooted sedge grown from a rhizome.

Leaves reduced to orange-brown sheaths.

Flower-head a dense and globular shape, containing many spikelets subtended by a stiff and sharply pointed bract.

Flowering Spring.

Fruit is a smooth and glossy nut of dark brown-black colour.

Habitat: Widespread on coastal/near coastal sandy soils, inland in sandy regions, and heathlands. Also found along margins of saline and subsaline lakes or watercourses.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, Tas, NSW, QLD, SA, WA & NZ.

Abundance:



Poaceae - Grass Family



>100mm

Imperata cylindrica (L.) P.Beauv.

Common name: Blady Grass syn. Cogongrass

Description: Tufted coarse perennial grass, grown from elongated rhizomes, sometimes producing tuber-like growths on lower roots.

Leaves erect and glabrous, except for silky hairs at leaf nodes and ligule; often tinged reddish colour through autumn; blade with fine scabs along margins and surface.

Flower-head a dense cylindrical, spikelike, panicle; spikelets obscured by many silky hairs; containing 2 stamens.

Flowering Jan-May.

Fruit a simple dry caryopsis.

Habitat: Sandy soils in lowland sites and fire-prone areas (except Mallee region).

Distribution: Endemic. All States, PNG, East Timor, NZ.

Abundance:



Photo: R. Lewis

Cyperaceae - Sedge Family



≈10mm

Isolepis marginata (Thunb.) A.Dietr. syn. *Scirpus marginatus*

Common name: Little Club-sedge

Description: Small tufted annual, culms thread-like.

Leaf-blades shorter than culms.

Spikelets 1–6 per Flower-head; bract erect or spreading, longer than spikelets; glumes rigid, stout keel, sides shining with conspicuous nerves, straw-coloured, often with red-brown to blackish patches; stamens 3.

Flowering Spring.

Fruit a nut, triangular in cross-section, roughened or veined, straw-coloured to dark brown.

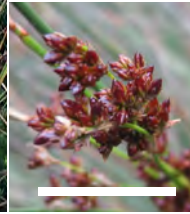
Habitat: Widespread on light, often sandy soils in lowland areas.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, Tas, ACT, NSW, NT, SA, WA.
Native to Southern Africa.

Abundance:



Juncaceae - Rush Family



≈20mm

Juncus kraussii Hochst.

Common name: Sea Rush syn. Salt Marsh Rush

Description: Perennial tussock grass grown from rhizome, culms slender and cylindrical.

Leaves tough and cylindrical, forming at base of stem; sheath golden brown.

Flower-head with several radiating branches; flowers clustered at ends of branchlets, 4-6 per cluster with 15-50 clusters per flower-head; tepals straw-brown to red-brown; stamens shorter than tepals.

Flowering Spring-Summer.

Fruit a narrow capsule, gold-brown or red-brown to black.

Habitat: Regularly occurring in saline and brackish wetlands along coastlines, less common inland.

Distribution: Endemic. All States, NZ, Southern Africa.

Abundance:



Photo 1: R. Lewis, 2: J. Tann

Poaceae - Grass Family



GRASSES AND TUSSOCKS

Lagurus ovatus L. syn. *Imperata ovata*

Common name: Hares-tail Grass syn. Bunnytail

Description: Annual grass with velvety culms
Leaves grey-green, velvety; ligule hairy.
Flower-head, egg-shaped dense panicle, fine hairs. Flower spikelets softly hairy; silvery green when young, becoming grey to white with brown bristles when mature.
Flowering Sept-Dec.

Habitat: Common on coastal sand dunes and sandy inland soils.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, Tas, NSW, QLD, SA & WA.
Native to Mediterranean Basin.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

ANGIOSPERMS

Cyperaceae - Sedge Family



>100mm

Lepidosperma concavum R.Br. syn. *Schoenus concavum*

Common name: Sandhill Sword-sedge

Description: Tufted perennial sedge with vertical rhizome. Culms sharp, rigid and erect, flat or convex on one side, glabrous and smooth, scabs along margins.

Leaf blades are similar in form to stems, usually shorter; sheaths straw or reddish near apex, dark yellow-brown to grey-brown at base.

Flower-head erect, dense; bract whorled, shorter than flower-head; spikelets numerous, with 6–8 bracts, covered in short fine hairs, red-brown to grey-brown; 6 scales at base of stamen, whitish in colour.

Flowering spring-summer.

Fruit a nut, pale to dark brown, shiny, smooth surface.

Habitat: Coastal hinterland within heathland and woodland on sandy soils.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, Tas, NSW, SA & QLD.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photo 1: R. Best, 2: R. Lewis

Cyperaceae - Sedge Family



Lepidosperma gladiatum Labill.

Common name: Coast Sword-sedge

Description: Perennial sedge, forming clumps, grown from vertical rhizome. Stems erect and rigid with a central ridge, hairless.

Leaf blades are similar in form and length to stems; sheaths straw to dark yellow-brown or grey-brown.

Flower-head ovate or oblong, dense and erect; forming numerous spikelets in clusters; red-brown bracts, covered in short fine hairs.

Flowering spring-summer.

Fruit is a nut, pale to dark brown; surface of nut is smooth or wrinkled, shiny surface.

Habitat: Coastline on sand dunes, occasionally on sandstone or limestone headlands.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, Tas, NSW, SA & WA.

Abundance:



Photo 1: A. Yakovlev, 2: R. Lewis



>100mm

Lomandra longifolia Labill. syn. *Xerotes longifolia*

Common name: Spiny-headed Mat-rush syn. Karawun (Koorie name)

Description: Dense Tussock.

Leaves flat or slightly concavo-convex in cross-section, glabrous; basal sheath gradually tapering, brown, orange-brown or reddish brown; apex 2-3 pointed.

Male and female flower-heads, whorled clusters; Bracts at the base of each cluster of flowers longer than flowers, pungent, straw-coloured to whitish; flowers without stalks; outer perianth shiny, papery, purplish or yellow; inner perianth fleshy, yellow or cream-coloured.

Habitat: Coastal regions and drier areas of coastal plains. Also found in rocky mountain and subalpine regions.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, Tas, SA, QLD, ACT & WA.

Abundance:



Photos: R. Lewis

Poaceae - Grass Family



Poa billardierei (Spreng.) St-Yves syn. *Austrofestuca littoralis*

Common name: Coast Fescue

Description: Perennial tussock grass grown from erect branching rhizome. Leaf blades folded and slightly cylindrical; outer surface of leaves smooth, inner leaf is densely covered in scabs; leaf apex ending in a sharp point. Flower-head a dense panicle, spike-like or lanceolate, obscured by leaves; spikelets within holding 3-5 flowers, pale straw coloured. Flowering Sep-Oct.

Habitat: Coastal sand dunes, seemingly being displaced by introduced Marram Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*).

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, Tas, NSW, QLD, SA & WA.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Poaceae - Grass Family

GRASSES AND TUSSOCKS



>100mm

Spinifex sericeus R.Br. syn. *Spinifex hirsutus*

Common name: Hairy Spinifex

Description: Perennial 'horizontal runner' grass, grown from rhizome, erect culms.

Leaves with dense silky hair, silvery leaf blades, flat to loosely inrolled.

Possessing both male and female flowers on separate plants.

Male flower-heads with 1 or more narrow clusters of spikes/racemes, subtended by a papery bract; female flower-head spherical, breaking free at maturity becoming a tumble-weed; spikelets without stalk, subtended by a papery bract and prominent bristle.

Flowering Sep-Feb.

(Male flowerhead small picture)

Habitat: Along sand dunes on coastlines. Effective dune stabilizer, but seemingly being displaced by introduced species such as Marram Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) and Sea Wheat-grass (*Thinopyrum junceiforme*).

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, Tas, NSW, SA, WA & NZ.

Abundance: 

Photos: R. Lewis

ANGIOSPERMS

Poaceae - Grass Family



Sporobolus virginicus (L.) Kunth syn. *Agrostis virginicus*

Common name: Salt-couch

Description: Perennial grass producing erect tufts, grown from long rhizomes. Leaves bright green, alternately arranged in two opposite rows, rigid, smooth; blade inrolled; sharply pointed. Flower-head a narrow spike-like panicle; spikelets shiny grey, containing a single flower. Flowering Sep-Mar.

Habitat: Coastal marshes and scattered on saline flats. Common along coastlines on sand dunes and cliffs, also occurs at swamp edges and on drainage lines.

Distribution: Endemic All States.

Abundance:



Poaceae - Grass Family



>100mm

Themeda triandra Forssk. syn. *Triandra australias*

Common name: Kangaroo Grass

Description: Tufted, sometimes glaucous perennial, culms erect, often reddish.

Leaves glabrous, or sheath and lower blade with scattered hairs; blade flat or channelled; ligule minutely fringed.

Flower-head drooping or turned to one side, each cluster comprising 3–10 racemes; involucre spikelets usually male; fertile spikelet slightly shorter than involucre, glumes hardened, scabrous to hairy near apex, pedicel with silky brown hairs; fertile floret inconspicuous, pedicellate spikelets usually male, resembling those of involucre.

Flowering mainly Oct.–Mar.

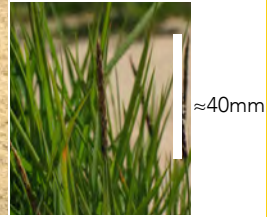
Habitat: Formerly dominant over vast areas of the basalt plains west of Melbourne. Also found in woodland and grassland communities over a wide range of soil types and growing conditions. Will not grow in permanently wet, very dry, saline or heavily shaded sites.

Distribution: Endemic. All States, NG, Asia, Africa.

Abundance: 

Photo 1: R. Lewis, 2: Friends of Chilton Pilot NP

Poaceae - Grass Family



Zoysia macrantha Desv.

Common name: Prickly Couch

Description: Perennial running grass grown from rhizome, culms and leaves on erect stems.

Leaves hairless, blade rigid and flat, or inrolled when young.

Flower-head a spike-like raceme; shiny bract below spikelet often a blackish colour, acute or tapering to a point; margins fused at base.

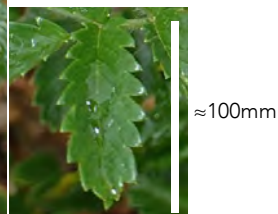
Flowering Summer.

Habitat: Sand dune and soil stabilizer, also found on margins of salt swamps.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, Tas, NSW, QLD & SA.

Abundance: 

Rosaceae - Rose Family



Acaena novae-zelandiae Kirk syn. *Acaena anserinifolia*

Common name: Bidgee-widgee

Description: Perennial herb, spreading, stems hairy, producing roots at nodes. Leaves forming 7-11 leaflets making ovate compound leaf; leaflets oblong, margins toothed, recurved; upper surface shiny green and glabrous, or with sparse hairs; lower surface glaucous, soft hairs on veins and margins; rachis red, stipules entire to 5-lobed. Flower-head spherical; peduncles hairy; 4 sepals; 2 creamy white stamens; 1 white style.

Flowering and Fruiting Sep-Apr. Fruiting head nearly spherical; containing achenes, 4-ribbed with shaggy long-soft hairs; 4 red spines, sometimes with small secondary spines.

Habitat: Grasslands, forests and alpine meadows, also occurring on moist soils.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, ACT, QLD, Tas, NZ, PNG. Widespread throughout Victoria.

Abundance:



Photo: J. Eichler

Asteraceae - Daisy Family



Actites megalocarpus (Hook.f.) Lander

Common name: Dune Thistle

Description: Erect perennial herb forming clumps.

Lower leaves crowded, oblanceolate to elliptic, margins wavy or toothed; upper leaves elliptic to lanceolate, base ear-shaped, margins wavy to pinnatisect.

Flower-head a capitulum; outer bracts have a row of fleshy spines near the base. Flowering Sep-Mar.

Fruit cypsela, glabrous, with pappus.

Habitat: Common on sand dunes and cliffs of exposed coasts.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, QLD, SA, Tas & WA.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Amaryllidaceae - Amaryllis Family



≈20mm

Allium triquetrum L.

Common name: Angled Onion syn. Three-corner Garlic

Description: Erect herb, producing spherical bulb, with numerous bulblets; scape triangular in cross-section. Leaves almost at base of stem, usually 2-5 per bulb, channeled, fleshy. Flower-head an umbel with 5-10 loose, drooping flowers; 2 linear sheathing bracts; perianth bell-shaped with oblong segments, white with green central stripe; stamens shorter than perianth, united to perianth at base. Flowering Aug-Nov. Fruit an ovoid capsule.

Habitat: Often forming dense coverings in moist shaded bushland, garden sites and roadsides.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, Tas, SA, QLD, NSW & WA. Native of Mediterranean region.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photos: L. Boyce

Amaryllidaceae - Amaryllis Family



≈90mm

Amaryllis belladonna L.

Common name: Belladonna Lily

Description: Forms in clumps, flowering occurs before the leaves emerge from the ground; bulb onion-like.

Leaves are several and produced after flowering, linear, edges channeled, scape stout and erect, ovoid in cross-section.

Flower-head an umbel with 5-12 flowers, pink or nearly white; perianth segments united at base, spreading widely above; stamens shorter than perianth.

Flowering late Summer to Autumn.

Fruit a spherical capsule, seeds nearly spherical.

Habitat: Commonly cultivated bulb in gardens and found in areas where garden waste has been deposited.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, Tas, SA & WA.

Native of South Africa.

Abundance:



Photos: R. Lewis

Asteraceae - Daisy Family

GROUND COVER AND WILDFLOWERS



Arctotheca calendula (L.) Levyns

Common name: Capeweed

Description: Stemless or short-stemmed succulent herb. Basal leaves oblanceolate in outline; deeply lobed to pinnatisect with 2-7 pairs of lobes, margins toothed, lower surface covered in white woolly hairs. Flower-head a capitula, hemispherical; surrounding bracts in 4-5 series; ligules yellow above, with green or purplish undersurface; disc florets black. Flowering Sep-Nov. Fruit a cypsela, covered in pink-brown wool, with 6-8 lanceolate scales.

Habitat: Widespread weed found on lawns, cultivated soils, pasture land and other disturbed sites.

Distribution: Introduced. All States. Native to South Africa.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■ ■

Photos: R. Lewis

ANGIOSPERMS

Asteraceae - Daisy Family



Arctotheca populifolia (P.J.Bergius) Norl.

Common name: Beach Daisy syn. Coast Capeweed

Description: Succulent perennial herb, growing from a rhizome.

Leaves mostly aerial on stem, ovate to rhombic or triangular; toothed or with pair of lobes; upper and lower surfaces grey to white woolly haired, dense on undersurface.

Flower-head a capitula, hemispherical; surrounding bracts in 3 or 4 series; ligules yellow; disc florets yellow.

Flowering most of the year.

Habitat: Found on coastal dunes accreting mounds of sand as it grows.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, ACT, SA & WA.

Native to South Africa.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Asteraceae - Daisy Family

*Berkheya rigida* (Thunb.) Bolus & Wolley-Dod

Common name: African Thistle

Description: Rigid perennial herb or subshrub growing from a rhizome; stems with white woolly hairs.

Leaves alternate, without stalk, lanceolate to ovate, pinnatifid, apex and lobes spine-tipped; upper surface blue-green, glabrous; lower surface with white woolly hairs, margins rolled under. Flower-head a capitula, several in corymb-like clusters; bracts burr-like, in 3-4 series, spreading, concave, margins spiny; receptacle-scales jagged; disc florets exceeding the bracts, yellow. Flowering mainly Spring and Summer. Fruit a Cypsela, glabrous, remaining attached.

Habitat: Abundant on fertile loamy soils, volcanic clays, and coastal regions.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, SA & WA. Native to Africa.

Abundance: 

Photos: J. Buckeridge

Asteraceae - Daisy Family



Brachyscome parvula Hook.f.

Common name: Coast Daisy

Description: Glabrous perennial, ascending or slightly erect.

Leaves growing both at base and on aerial stem, sometimes succulent; either with smooth margins or pinnatisect with linear lobes; smooth-margined leaves oval or linear.

Flowers with 15-20 bracts, mainly green but with dry, membranous and purplish margins, hairy; ligules white or mauve.

Flowering mostly Sep-Apr.

Fruit a cypsela, brown; small bump on surface; thick margins, paler brown, glabrous; with pappus.

Habitat: Found in various habitats, from coastal cliffs and saline, marshy ground near the sea, to inland grassland and open *Eucalyptus* woodland and forest.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, SA & Tas.

Abundance:



Brassicaceae - Cabbage Family



≈20mm

Cakile edentula (Bigelow) Hook.

Common name: American Sea Rocket

Description: Branched herb growing horizontally and upwards.

Leaves dark green, ovate to spoon-shaped, with lobes that tend to point forward, margins smooth.

Flower-head is congested; petals white, pink or lavender.

Flowering Nov-May.

Fruit breaking between upper and lower segments; lower segment 2-6 toothed; upper segment compressed, 4-angled.

Habitat: Regularly occurs on sandy coastlines.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, QLD, SA, Tas & WA.

Native to North America.

Abundance:



Photos: L. Boyce

Brassicaceae - Cabbage Family



≈20mm

Cakile maritima Scop.

Common name: Sea Rocket

Description: Branched herb growing horizontally or upwards.

Leaves yellow-green, obovate with pinnate to serrated or smooth margins. Flowers white to purple. Flowering Jul-Aug.

Fruit a Silicula sticking out from the stem, breaking between upper and lower segments; upper segment compressed conical, 4-angled; lower segment almost as wide as upper with 2 blunt horns near apex.

Habitat: Widespread along coastlines, also found inland.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, QLD, ACT, SA, Tas & WA. Native to Europe and Africa.

Abundance:



Montiaceae



<20mm

Calandrinia eremaea Ewart

Common name: Small Purslane

Description: Annual herb growing flat on ground, with weakly ascending pink stems, simple or few-branched.

Leaves often rosetted from base, oblong to elliptic, glabrous.

Flower-head an elongating cyme, 3-7 flowered; opposite bracts; sepals ovate and remaining attached; 5 petals, white to deep pink; 7-20 stamens; style split into three parts.

Fruit a capsule, egg-shaped, pale, splitting into 3 valves; numerous shiny dark red-brown or grey seeds.

Habitat: Scattered in mild-warm and dry environments. Commonly found in sandy or shallow soils, on rock-ledges.

Distribution: All States.

Abundance:



Photos: J. Eichler

Convolvulaceae - Bindweed Family



Calystegia soldanella (L.) Roem. & Schult.

Common name: Sea Bindweed

Description: Smooth perennial with trailing stems.

Leaves kidney-shaped, fleshy; rounded to notched at apex; base cordate; margins wavy.

Flowers as long or longer than petioles; bracts broad-ovate; apex rounded or obtuse; corolla white, pink or purplish.

Flowering Spring and Summer.

Fruit an ovoid capsule, acute.

Habitat: Uncommon trailer found in coastal dunes, known to act as a sand-binder.

Distribution: Vic, Tas, QLD, NSW & WA.

Abundance:



Aizoaceae - Ice Plants

GROUND COVER AND WILDFLOWERS



≈100mm

Carpobrotus edulis (L.) N.E.Br.

Common name: Hottentot Fig

Description: Ground creeper, succulent. Leaves succulent, dull to bright shining green, equilateral near middle with all faces slightly concave, reddish keel. Flower with calyx tube turbinate to oblong; 5 sepals, 2 long and finely toothed; petal-like staminodes 120-130 in number, arranged in 3-5 rows, yellow becoming bright flesh-pink with age, streaked brown when dry; stamens 400-600 in number, arranged in 5-8 rows; ovary convex with top central depression, 8-10 free ovules. Flowering Aug-Oct. Fruit yellowish, nearly spherical or half-sphere in shape, indented at apex.

Photos: R. Lewis

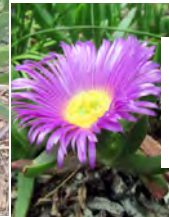
Habitat: Planted for dune stabilization, and has started to become established in sandy soils on coastlines.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, QLD, SA, Tas & WA. Native to South Africa.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■ ■

ANGIOSPERMS

Aizoaceae - Ice Plants



≈60mm

Carpobrotus rossii (Haw.) Schwantes

Common name: Karkalla syn. Pigface

Description: Ground creeper, succulent. Leaves green to glaucous, distinctly incurved, thicker than width near centre with slightly convex faces.

Flower calyx tube turbinate or oblong, compressed; 5 sepals, petal-like staminodes bright, light purple, merging to white at base, streaked brown near mid-line when dry, 100-200 in number, in 2-3 rows; stamens 100-250 in number, 3-4 rows; ovary flat to convex on top with 6-10 ovules.

Flowering most of the year.

Fruit nearly spherical, slightly 2-angled and compressed.

Habitat: Regularly occurring on dunes and cliffs along the coastlines.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, QLD, SA, Tas & WA.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■ ■

Photos: R. Lewis

Centrolepidaceae

GROUND COVER AND WILDFLOWERS



<10mm

Centrolepis polygyna (R.Br.) Hieron.

Common name: Wiry Centrolepis

Description: Tufted annual herb. Leaves glabrous, somewhat recurved. Flower-head borne on axis, flowers held above the leaves or sometimes included amongst; bracts glabrous; lower bract with a brown papery sheath; upper bract sheathing at base, brown and papery; stamen 1, fused at base to each axis bearing carpels; carpels 6-14 in pairs. Flowering Sep-Dec.

Habitat: Damp, clayey or sandy soils and saline soils.

Distribution: Vic, NSW, SA, WA, NT & Tas.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photos: J. Eichler

ANGIOSPERMS

Centrolepidaceae



Centrolepis strigosa (R.Br.) Roem. & Schult.

Common name: Hairy Centrolepis

Description: Annual tufted herb. Leaves numerous, thread-like, moderately hairy. Flower-head borne on an axis, flowers held above leaves; bracts spreading, just exceeding length of flower-head, covered with rigid hairs, ensheathed from base. Flower-head units are 5-10 per cluster; stamens 1 per flower-head unit, fused at base to each axis bearing carpels; Carpels 5-6 in alternate pairs; styles free. Flowering Oct-Dec.

Habitat: Common on shallow sandy or auriferous soils, on rocky and mossy outcrops.

Distribution: Vic, NSW, SA, WA & Tas.

Abundance: 

Caryophyllaceae - Pink Family

GROUND COVER AND WILDFLOWERS



Cerastium glomeratum Thuill.

Common name: Mouse-eared Chickweed

Description: Annual herb with branching taproot; hairs tipped with or without a gland; slender stems, erect or grounded.

Leaves without stalks, ovate or elliptic. Flower-head dense, herbaceous bracts, with 5 flowers; calyx with or without glands, with soft hairs; sepals lanceolate, narrow-acute; petals equaling sepals, one quarter forked; 5 styles.

Flowering Aug-Jan.

Fruit a curved capsule, pale to chestnut brown seeds.

Habitat: A cosmopolitan weed (distribution range across most of the world in appropriate habitat). Found on lawns, disturbed soils and waste sites in temperate regions.

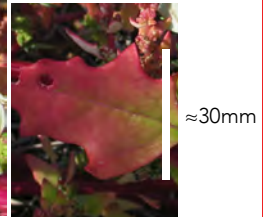
Distribution: Introduced. All States.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photos: J. Eichler

ANGIOSPERMS

Chenopodiaceae - Goosefoot Family



Chenopodium glaucum L.

Common name: Glaucous Goosefoot

Description: Ground-growing to erect annual.

Leaves usually succulent, ovate to rhombic; leaf margins wavy or with irregular lobes; upper surface glabrous, brownish when young; lower surface powdery grey or white.

Flowers clustered in axils, or in racemes or panicles; terminal flowers bisexual; 3-5 sepals; 1-3 stamens, seed horizontal; lateral flowers female or bisexual, 3 perianth segments, stamens 1 or absent, erect seed.

Flowering Dec-May.

Circular seed, reddish-brown to black, with a fine surface pattern.

Habitat: Coastal saltmarshes and inland, occasional found around lakes on heavy soils in the south and west of Victoria.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, SA, ACT, Tas, & WA.

Abundance: 

Photo: R. Lewis

Commelinaceae- Dayflower

Family



≈70mm

Commelina cyanea R.Br.

Common name: Scurvy Weed

Description: Perennial herb, stems growing horizontally, smooth, rooting at nodes.

Leaves green above and below, ovate to narrow-ovate.

Large green bract sheathing each flower; petals sky or deep blue, kidney shaped, the lower petal is smaller than the upper pair.

Flowering Sep-May.

Fruit is a 5-seeded capsule, dull brown or black, surface is pitted or with a network of veins.

Habitat: Moist forest areas, usually in or near coastal regions.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, QLD, NSW, NT & ACT. Presumed native to Victoria although not identified on ALA map

Abundance:



Photos: R. Lewis

Asteraceae - Daisy Family



≈30mm

Cynara cardunculus L.

Common name: Spanish Artichoke syn. Artichoke Thistle

Description: Perennial herb growing, rigid and covered with weak, loosely entangled hairs.

Leaves, segmented, ovate to linear-lanceolate, uppermost leaves without stalk; upper surfaces covered sparsely with weak, loosely entangled hairs; lower surfaces with dense and sticky hairs.

Flower-head a capitula, ovoid to spherical; surrounding bracts ovate to elliptic, tapering into erect and spreading spines; florets blue, lilac or whitish; style long and projected out, with a ring of short hairs at base. Flowering Nov-Feb.

Fruit an achene, shiny brown spots; with whitish pappus.

Habitat: A common weed of roadsides, waste/disturbed sites and pastureland. Found mostly in clayey soils.

Distribution: Introduced. All States. Native to Europe. Declared noxious

Abundance: 

Photo: R. Lewis

Asphodelaceae

GROUND COVER AND WILDFLOWERS



≈20mm

Dianella brevicaulis (Ostenf.) G.W.Carr & P.F.Horsfall

Common name: Coast Flax-lily

Description: Closely tufted perennial herb, with fibrous roots.

Leaves pale to dark green, mostly erect, sheathing at base; margins smooth and recurved; undersurface midrib smooth.

Flowers shorter than plant foliage (different to *Dianella revoluta* where flowers are above foliage), with spreading branches, blue to violet; perianth spreading to recurved; stamens shorter than perianth segments with yellow filament swellings; dark brown to black anthers.

Flowering Oct-Dec.

Fruit a globular shining purple berry; seeds flattened, black, smooth and shining.

Habitat: Sandy soil mainly near the coast, sometimes on exposed dunes, with inland occurrences on heavier soils and in grasslands.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, Tas & WA.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photos: L. Boyce

ANGIOSPERMS

Convolvulaceae - Bindweed Family



≈30mm

Dichondra repens J.R.Forst. & G.Forst.

Common name: Kidney-weed

Description: Perennial herb, greyish hairy, rooting at nodes.

Leaves kidney-shaped to flat-circular, rounded at apex; base cordate; upper and lower surfaces moderately covered in soft hairs.

Flowers solitary; sepals oblong to elliptic, united at base, covered in soft hairs; corolla tube circular and flattened, glabrous, pale green-yellow.

Flowering mainly Spring and Summer.

Fruit a capsule, with 2 deep lobes, shorter than calyx when ripe.

Habitat: Various habitats. Also a weed of lawns, or planted deliberately as ornamental.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, Tas, SA, QLD, ACT, NSW & WA, NZ. Common and widespread throughout most of Victoria.

Abundance:



Iridaceae - Iris Family

GROUND COVER AND WILDFLOWERS



Dietes iridioides (L.) Sweet ex Klatt

Common name: African Iris

Description: Herb with flowers lasting only one day.

Leaves basal, linear.

Flower-head irregularly branching; Flowers white or cream with prominent yellow marking and small orange-brown markings on the outer tepals; tepals elliptic to spatulate, spreading to recurved; outer tepals hairy on mid-vein; style branches blue.

Fruit a capsule, cylindrical to egg-shaped; seeds brown, in 2 rows of each capsule chamber, 50-100 per capsule.

Habitat: Mountain and coastal forest margins and on mountain cliffs.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic & NSW.

Abundance:



Photos: R. Lewis

ANGIOSPERMS

Aizoaceae - Ice Plants



≈50mm

Disphyma crassifolium subsp. *clavellatum* (Haw.) Chinnock

Common name: Rounded Noon-flower

Description: Annual or short-lived perennial, growing along ground.

Leaves thick, shiny green, sometimes yellow or red tinged, circular to triangular cross-section.

Flowers pink or purple, with numerous linear petaloid staminodes, flowers close at night and open again late morning.

Flowering mainly Oct-Feb.

Fruit a capsule, inverted cone shape; seeds smooth and slightly compressed.

Habitat: Coastal salt-marshes and sea-cliffs. Occasionally found inland in saline environments.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, Tas, QLD, SA & WA.

Abundance: 

Euphorbiaceae - Spurge Family

GROUND COVER AND WILDFLOWERS



≈20mm

Euphorbia paralias L.

Common name: Sea Spurge

Description: Erect perennial, fleshy, glaucous; many stems, dividing into 3-5 fertile branches, each branching further. Cauline leaves without stalk, crowded, overlapping, obovate-oblong, fleshy; leaves on fertile branches circular-rhombic or reniform.

Flower-head a solitary cyathia, found in upper forks or at apex; surrounded by bell-shaped bracts; crescent-shaped glands, with two widely spreading horn-like appendages; female flowers with styles that divide into 2 short stigmas. Flowering Sep-May.

Fruit a capsule, flattened from above or nearly spherical, deep furrows, wrinkled on keels; seeds ovoid, pale-grey and smooth; kidney-shaped fleshy outgrowth from seed coat.

Habitat: A troublesome weed of sandy soils in and around coastal areas.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, Tas, NSW, SA & WA. Native to the Mediterranean, Europe and Siberia.

Photo: R. Lewis

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

ANGIOSPERMS

Apiaceae - Carrot Family



<20mm

Foeniculum vulgare Mill.

Common name: Fennel

Description: Erect biennial or annual herb, **strongly aniseed scented**; robust stems, striped with parallel ridges, usually glaucous.

Leaves both basal and cauline, feathery, repeatedly dissected into many segments.

Flower-head a compound umbel, umbels arising from a common peduncle; 8-30 ray florets, little umbels with 10-30 yellow flowers, yellow petals.

Flowering Spring and Summer.

Fruit egg-shaped to oblong, splitting at maturity with segments flattened.

Habitat: A widespread weed of disturbed areas, along roadsides, railway lines and watercourses.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, Tas, NSW, ACT, SA, QLD & WA.
Native to Eurasia.

Abundance:



Photo 1: R. Lewis, 2: F & K Starr

Papaveraceae - Poppy Family

GROUND COVER AND WILDFLOWERS



<5mm

Fumaria bastardii Boreau

Common name: Bastard's Fumitory

Description: Slender erect herb. Leaves pinnatisect with flat segments lanceolate to ovate, Flower-head a raceme, always longer than peduncle; 15-25 flowered with bracts shorter than pedicels; corolla pink, upper petal pink with dark purple apex, lower petal pale pink to white. Flowering Aug-Nov. Fruit square at base and rounded at apex; wrinkled when dry.

Habitat: Irrigated crop weed and found on disturbed damp, somewhat fertile soils.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, QLD, SA, Tas & WA. Native to Europe.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photo 1: L. Boyce, 2: R. Lewis

ANGIOSPERMS

Asteraceae - Daisy Family



≈50mm

Gazania rigens (L.) Gaertn.

Common name: Coast Gazania

Description: Perennial herb with stems growing horizontally and branched, rooting at nodes.

Leaves basal, elliptic to narrow-lanceolate in outline; sometimes having 1 or 2 pairs of lobes; upper surface is green and glabrous, sometimes with scabs; lower surface with a dense cover of white, wooly hairs; base petiole-like and sheathing below; margins recurved. Flower-head a capitula; surrounding bracts fused halfway; ligules bright orange to deep-yellow, usually having black base marked with white spot; disc florets orange.

Flowering mainly Spring and Summer.

Fruit a cypsela, silky and shaggy long hairs hiding a scaly pappus; pappus scales taper to a point.

Habitat: "Garden-escape" in disturbed areas, mostly near suburban areas or on coastal sand dunes.

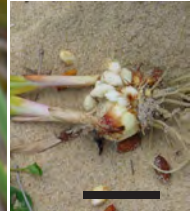
Distribution: Introduced. Vic, Tas, NSW, SA, QLD & WA.
Native to South Africa.

Abundance:



Photos: R. Lewis

Iridaceae - Iris Family



Gladiolus gueinzii Kunze

Common name: Beach Gladiolus

Description: Herb with papery outer layered corm; small underground bulbs often produced; stem unbranched with 2-3 sheathing leaves.

Basal leaves linear, flat and fleshy, prominent midvein and margins; bulbs often in axils.

Flowers funnel-shaped, pink to pale or dark mauve; perianth tube slightly widened at mouth; lobes equal, obovate, with central white stripe or mark; stamens arranged to one side of flower; style branches spread at height of anthers.

Flowering Oct-Dec.

Habitat: Pioneer species on coastal dunes

Distribution: Introduced. Vic & NSW. Native to South Africa. Considered a widespread weed on the east coast of NSW.

Abundance: 

Photos: R. Lewis

Amaranthaceae



Hemichroa pentandra R.Br.

Common name: Trailing Hemicroah

Description: Succulent trailer growing across ground, grown from a woody rhizome. Stems with white hairs on new growth, turning glabrous.

Leaves alternate, without petioles, partly sheathing at base, linear, triangular in cross-section; concave on upper surface, glabrous, blunt or ending in short and sharp point.

Flowers without stalk, with broadly ovate bracts; tepals white, cream or pink on inner surface, narrowly ovate; 5 united stamens on a shallow cup high around ovary; style forked to midway.

Flowering Nov-Feb.

Fruit an egg-shaped utricle; seed vertical, black and shining, flattened egg-shape.

Habitat: Common in coastal saltmarsh communities and coastal cliffs.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, SA, Tas & WA

Abundance: 

Photo 1: L. Boyce

Araliaceae



≈60mm

Hydrocotyle bonariensis Lam.

Common name: Large-leaf Pennywort

Description: Perennial herb, glabrous with robust creeping stems, rooting at nodes.

Leaf blade fleshy, shield-like, shallowly lobed; margin with blunt or rounded teeth; rough stipules.

Flower-head a compound umbel, many-flowered; ray florets 5-12, spreading; flowers in whorls within spike-like structures, also at base of rays; peduncle usually higher than leaves; bracts surrounding flower-head lanceolate and rounded; petals white to creamy yellow. Flowering mainly Spring and Summer. Fruit oval across, base and apex are notched, prominent back and side ribs.

Habitat: Coastal or near-coastal regions on sand dunes, cliff-faces and swampy areas.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, SA, QLD & WA.
Native to South America.

Abundance: 

Photo: R. Lewis

Asteraceae - Daisy Family



<5mm

Laphangium luteoalbum (L.)Tzvelev

Common name: Jersey Cudweed

Description: Erect, greyish-cottony annual or biennial.

Leaves linear or lanceolate, margins sometimes wavy.

Flower-head a capitula in clusters; outermost bracts shiny, yellow-brown; female florets 50-100; bisexual florets 5-10, corollas yellow.

Flowering most of the year.

Fruit a cypsela, with 8-12 pappus bristles.

Habitat: Common garden plant, also found in crops. Often colonizing open, disturbed ground in natural vegetation.

Distribution: Introduced. All States. Native to Europe, Middle East & North Africa.

Abundance:



Campanulaceae



Lobelia anceps L.f.

Common name: Angled Lobelia

Description: Perennial with horizontal to ascending growth, rooting at the nodes; upper stems winged, maroon tinged. Leaves lanceolate or ovate-spathulate to linear; toothed, reducing toward flower-head. Flowers bisexual, in a raceme or panicle; calyx lobes entire; corolla 2-lipped, light blue to violet, tube split to base, glabrous. Flowering Nov-Apr. Fruit a capsule, compressed, cylindrical to conical; seeds slightly compressed, light brown. Fruiting Dec-May.

Habitat: Sheltered damp sites amongst a range of plant communities. Most common in seepage areas on coastal cliffs, along rivers and swamp margins.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, Qld, WA, SA & Tas.

Abundance: 

Photo: J. Eichler

Iridaceae - Iris Family



≈40mm

Moraea flaccida (Sweet) Steud.

Common name: One-leaf Cape Tulip

Description: One-leaf Cape Tulip
Description: Erect perennial herb that grows from a bulb. Leaves solitary, inserted above ground level, longer than stem. Flower-head with unbranched scape or flexed branches, 1-3 flowered clusters; Flowers orange with triangular yellow centre, sickly-sweet scented; perianth segments free, narrow at base; stamen filaments minutely hairy at base; anthers joined together at base, spreading in different directions. Ovary with style branches flattened, with crests erect to curved inwards.

Flowering Sep-Oct.
Fruit a capsule.

Habitat: Pasture, roadside and disturbed areas.

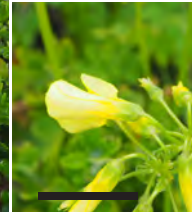
Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, SA, Tas & WA. Considered a noxious weed in Victoria.

Abundance:



Photo: L. Boyce

Oxalidaceae - Sorrel Family



≈20mm

Oxalis pes-caprae L.

Common name: Soursob

Description: Herb with stems developing only when plants are crowded or growing in shade; ovoid bulbs, pointed, forming on fleshy white rhizome and in leaf axils, outer surface pale brown.

Leaves 3-foliolate, crowded at apex of rhizome; 3 bi-lobed leaflets forming one leaf, lobes oblong, rounded at apex, leaflets often purple-flecked; stipule abruptly tapering into petiole.

Flower-heads 3-25 flowered; peduncle hairy; sepals green at base and reddish at apex; 2 orange calli; petals yellow.

Flowering Jun-Nov.

Fruit a capsule which does not develop in Australia.

Habitat: Widespread- in gardens, orchards, roadsides, river banks and arable land. Very difficult to eradicate due to persistent bulbs.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, SA, QLD, NT & WA.

Native to South Africa.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■ ■

Photos: L. Boyce

Orchidaceae - Orchid Family



≈20mm

Pterostylis nutans R.Br.

Common name: Nodding Greenhood

Description: Terrestrial herb
Leaves a rosette, 3-6, ovate, elliptic or oblong; wavy or finely curled.
Flower strongly nodding; translucent with green and brown in the hood; dorsal sepal acute; lateral sepals erect, loosely embracing the hood; petals narrow; lip ovate-lanceolate, green and reddish-brown, scabby, curved apex.
Flowering Apr-Oct.

Habitat: Wide-ranging; open-forest, wet sclerophyll forest and coastal scrub, prefers moist shaded areas.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, QLD, SA, ACT & Tas.

Abundance: ■

Chenopodiaceae



≈20mm

Salsola tragus subsp. pontica (Pall.) Rilke

Common name: Coast Saltwort

Description: Erect to rounded annual breaking off at ground level on maturity, dispersing in a tumbleweed fashion. Leaves succulent (spongy when dry), circular to triangular in cross-section. Flowers solitary and without stalks in upper axils. Fruiting perianth with fan-shaped wings, translucent with dark brown veins (subsp. *pontica* with fruiting perianth having reduced or absent wing). Flowering mainly May–Oct.

Habitat: Semi-arid, often slightly saline and occasionally coastal areas.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, QLD, NT & WA.

Abundance: 

Photo: J. Eichler

Chenopodiaceae



≈50mm

Sarcocornia quinqueflora Bunge ex Ung.-Sternb.

Common name: Beaded Glasswort

Description: Perennial, horizontally spreading to shortly erect; producing roots and sometimes shoots at nodes. Branches cylindric with segments of jointed stem. Flower-head is a spike; Flowers 10-18 per false whorl, arranged in a single row. Seed circular, covered with pointed or hooked hairs.

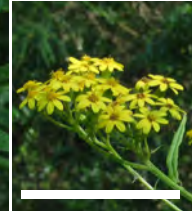
Habitat: Coastal areas and often in habitats periodically inundated with salt water eg. coastal intertidal zones.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, Tas, NSW, SA, QLD & WA.

Abundance:



Asteraceae - Daisy Family



<100mm

Senecio linearifolius A.Rich.

Common name: Fireweed

Description: Slender to shrubby perennial, stems glabrous to white cobwebbed. Leaves variable, linear to ovate, often with short ear-shaped lobes; margins smooth to toothed; upper surface glabrous; lower surface glabrous or cobwebbed. Flower-head corymbose; capitula 20-200 or more, radiate; cylindric bracts surrounding flower-head, glabrous or cobwebbed; yellow ray florets 4-8; yellow disc florets 8-14.

Flowering mostly Nov-Mar. Fruit a cypsela, pale to reddish-brown, shortly bumped and hairy in rows; pappus of slender white hairs.

Habitat: Commonly found in cool regions with high-rainfall, often associated with tall forests, known to colonize an area after fire and/or soil disturbance.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, ACT, SA, Tas & QLD.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photo: R. Lewis

Asteraceae - Daisy Family



≈20mm

Sonchus asper (L.) Hill

Common name: Rough Sow Thistle

Description: Annual with woody taproot, stem hollow.

Basal leaf a rosette, prominent veins; Leaves lanceolate in outline, pinnately lobed, herbaceous to leathery, glabrous, glaucous, rounded apex; wavy, toothed and spiny margins; aerial leaves with rounded ear-shaped lobes.

Flower-head stalks with glandular-hairs; bracts glabrous or with glandular-hairs along the midline; ligules yellow; shorter than corolla-tube.

Flowering mostly Spring to Autumn.

Fruit a cypsela, compressed oval shape, 3-ribbed on each face; winged margins, smooth or rough; Pappus falling off early.

Habitat: Usually moist sites, found in both disturbed and undisturbed areas.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, ACT, SA, QLD, Tas & WA. Native to Europe & North Africa.

Abundance:



Photo: A.J Brown

Asteraceae - Daisy Family

GROUND COVER AND WILDFLOWERS



≈20mm

Sonchus oleraceus L.

Common names: Common Sow-thistle syn. Hares Lettuce

Description: Annuals or biennials with taproot and fibrous roots.

Leaves lanceolate to oblanceolate in outline, variously pinnate, thin, often glaucous; margins sometimes finely-toothed; basal leaves rosetted; cauline leaves with small ear-shaped lobes. Peduncle glabrous or with hairy glands; bracts glabrous or with glandular hair along midline.

Flowering most of the year.

Fruit a cypsela, obovoid, moderately compressed; both surfaces 3-ribbed, transversely wrinkled; margins narrow, glabrous.

Habitat: A common weed throughout Victoria, found on disturbed sites and in gardens. Also found in areas of reasonably undisturbed native vegetation.

Distribution: Introduced. All States. Native to Europe. Now Cosmopolitan.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photo: R. Best

ANGIOSPERMS

Aizoaceae - Ice Plants



<10mm

Tetragonia implexicoma (Miq.) Hook.f.

Common name: Bower Spinach

Description: Trailing or climbing subshrub, sometimes forming mounds. Leaves rhombic to angular-ovate, semi-succulent, papillose, sometimes bearing coarse hairs when young.

Flowers are solitary, sometimes paired, strongly scented; pedicel bearing coarse hairs; 4 petals with yellow inner face, incurved at apex; 12-20 stamens; 2 styles. Flowering Aug-Nov.

Fruit succulent, bony inside, nearly spherical to triangular-pyramid in shape; 1-3 pale brown seeds.

Habitat: Coastline, on cliffs, sand dunes and in foreshore scrub. Occasionally occurs inland along tidal or slightly brackish watercourses.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, SA, QLD, Tas & WA.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■ ■

Photos: L. Boyce

Aizoaceae - Ice Plants



≈5mm

Tetragonia tetragonioides (Pall.) Kuntze syn. *Tetragonia expansa*

Common name: New Zealand Spinach

Description: Sprawling annual growing across ground. Leaves succulent, triangular to rhombic, with bumps on surface. Flowers solitary, without stalk or with sub-stalk; 5 perianth segments, unequal, rounded, green inner surface, with small bumps on outer surface; stamens 10-16; styles 5-11. Flowering most of the year. Fruit dry or thinly fleshy, 4-angled or winged, main angles ending in short conical horns; seeds 4-8, pale brown, narrowly egg-shaped.

Habitat: Occurs along coastlines on rocks, silty soils or organically rich sand.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, ACT, SA, Tas, QLD & WA. Native to Eastern Asia & NZ.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photos: R. Lewis

Apocynaceae - Dogbane Family



≈40mm

Vinca major L.

Common name: Blue Periwinkle

Description: Trailing evergreen with tough stems that root at the nodes; flowering stems are short and spread horizontally before becoming erect.

Leaves are broad-ovate, glossy with pointed apex; base cut off squarely or cordate; margins hairy; upper and lower surface glabrous.

Flowers blue and erect; sepals linear, with marginal hairs; corolla tube, with lobes broad-ovate and spreading.

Flowering May-Dec.

Fruits are paired follicles, tapering at ends with beak; 1-4 seeds per follicle.

Habitat: Common garden ornamental plant that has become widely naturalized along roadsides and other disturbed sites. It is commonly found in moist riparian areas.

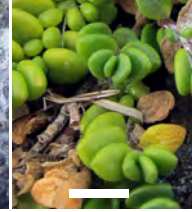
Distribution: Introduced. Vic, Tas, ACT, QLD, NSW & WA.

Native to the Mediterranean region.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photos: R. Lewis

Convolvulaceae



<5mm

Wilsonia rotundifolia Hook.

Common name: Round-leaf Wilsonia

Description: Small sub-shrub with branches growing across the ground or slightly ascending, many-branched, forming a mat.

Leaves alternate, flat and fleshy, round or ovate, crowded together on short stalks; covered in loose hairs which fall upon maturity; margins smooth.

Flowers solitary, white, with lobes oblong-elliptic; calyx tube with short triangular teeth, covered in coarse hairs; stamens and style slightly exerted; ovary 2-celled.

Flowering Spring to early Summer.

Fruit a capsule.

Habitat: Grey clay soils in lowlands along lake margins, saline marshes and brackish swamps. Also found in coastal regions along cliffs.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, Tas & WA.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photo: R. Lewis

Colchicaceae



Wurmbea dioica (R.Br.) F.Muell. syn. *Anguillaria dioica*

Common name: Early Nancy

Description: Herb with male and female reproductive structures either on same individual plant (on separate flowers), or developing on different individuals.

Leaves 3, linear to thread-like, sheathing at base.

1-15 flowers; tepals oval shaped, free or fused at base, spreading, white with purple or green nectary band; stamens half as long as tepals; anthers red to purple or yellow.

Flowering Jun-Nov.

Habitat: Lowland open-forests, woodland and grassland, mostly found in seasonally wet areas.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, Tas, QLD, SA, ACT & WA.

Abundance:





≈10mm

Alyxia buxifolia R.Br.

Common name: Sea-box

Description: Shrub, often stunted and wind shorn.

Leaves opposite or in whorls of 3, elliptic to obovate; thick and rigid; upper surface shiny green, lower surface paler, glabrous; base wedge-shaped.

Flower-head a cyme, 8-flowered; corolla tube swollen near apex, orange, corolla lobes twisted and white.

Flowers Spring to Autumn.

Fruit a drupe, red to orange, 1-2 per flower, usually 1-seeded.

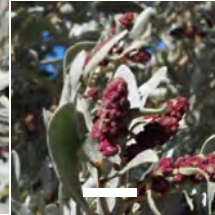
Habitat: Coastal cliffs and old dunes, often on exposed sites.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, Tas, QLD & WA.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photos: R. Lewis

Chenopodiaceae



<10mmD

Atriplex cinerea Poir.

Common name: Coast Saltbush syn. Grey Saltbush

Description: Erect or spreading shrub, dioecious or monoecious.

Leaves ovate to elliptic or oblong; upper and lower surfaces silvery or grey-green. Male flowers in dense clusters continuous along simple or branched spikes; female flowers clustered in upper leaf axils; fruiting bracts fused near base where firm and thick, greyish, ovoid to rhombic, tapering at base. Fruits Oct-Jan.

Habitat: Coastal sand dunes, particularly along shores of bays and inlets.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, Tas, QLD & WA.

Abundance: 

Photo: L. Boyce

Asteraceae - Daisy Family

SMALL SHRUBS



≈50mm

Chrysanthemoides monilifera (L.) Norl. ssp. *monilifera*

Common name: African Boneseed syn. Tick Berry

Description: Shrub with cobwebby young growth. Leaf lamina obovate or elliptic, base narrowing gradually; margins toothed. Bracts surrounding flower-head ovate to lanceolate; with wooly jagged margins; ray florets 4-8; ligules yellow. Flowering Aug-Nov. Fruit globose, green when immature turning dark brown-purple to black.

Habitat: Naturalized and invasive in many habitats but commonly found in rocky sites and near coastal areas.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, SA & Tas. Native to Southern Africa.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photo: R. Lewis

Asteraceae - Daisy Family



≈20mm

Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. *rotundata* (DC.) Norl.
syn. *Osteospermum rotundatum*

Common name: Bitou Bush

Description: Shrub.

Leaf lamina ovate to elliptic, base narrowing abruptly; margins entire.

Bracts surrounding flower-head lanceolate, with glabrous entire margins; ray florets 5-13; ligules yellow.

Flowering Sep-Oct.

Fruit egg-shaped to ellipsoid.

Habitat: Formerly planted as a dune stabilizer now considered invasive. Found on rocky cliffs and coastal dune scrub.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, QLD & WA.

Native to Southern Africa.

Abundance:

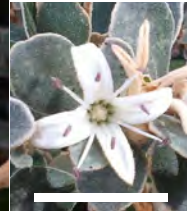


SMALL SHRUBS

ANGIOSPERMS

Rutaceae - Citrus Family

SMALL SHRUBS



≈10mm

Correea alba Andrews syn. *Mazeutoxeron rufum*

Common name: White Correa

Description: Erect shrub, young stems with a covering of rusty wooly hairs.

Leaves are leathery, elliptic to orbicular, sparsely hairy or glabrous on upper surface, dense wooly hairs on under surface.

Flower-head 1-5 flowered, terminal on short branchlets; pedicels covered in wooly hairs; deciduous bracts; calyx hemispherical, covered in fawn wooly hairs; corolla bell-shaped; petals white, free and spreading, outside covered in wooly hairs.

Flowering mainly Apr-Jun.

Fruit green, cut off squarely.

Habitat: Along coastal heath and woodland.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, Tas, QLD, ACT & WA.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photo: R. Lewis



Correa reflexa (Labill.) Vent syn. *Antommarchia rubra*

Common name: Common Correa

Description: Shrub covered with wooly hairs.

Leaves papery to leathery, oblong to broadly ovate, base rounded; margins entire or scalloped; upper surface smooth to rough or hairy, lower surface without hairs or hairy.

Flower-head 1-3 flowered at end of lateral branchlets; flower usually solitary, pendent; calyx hemispherical, cut off squarley or slightly wavy, 4-toothed, cream and with rusty hairs; corolla cylindric to trumpet-shaped, red with green tips, fused; stamens exerted.

Flowering May-Nov.

Habitat: Forest, heathland and coastal dunes.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, QLD, ACT & Tas.

Abundance:





≈80mm

Cotoneaster glaucophyllus Franch.

Common name: Glaucous Cotoneaster

Description: Erect evergreen shrub, new growth is hairy
Leaves simple, elliptic to ovate, base wedge-shaped, ending in a short sharp point; upper surface glabrous, lower surface covered in white wooly hairs; stipules small and shed early.
Flower-head a many-flowered corymb; pedicels hairy; 5 sepals, hairy; 5 petals, white, basal portion of petal is stalk-like. Flowers Summer.
Fruit a pome, red, glabrous; seeds 2.

Habitat: Cultivated for gardens, has become naturalized in bushland.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, SA, WA, NSW, ACT, QLD, Tas & NZ.
Native to China.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photos: R. Lewis

Crassulaceae



≈40mm

SMALL SHRUBS

Cotyledon orbiculata L. syn. *Cotyledon elata*

Common name: Pigs Ear syn. Round-leafed Navel-wort

Description: Succulent shrub, stems erect, branched.

Leaves opposite or whorled; obovate to linear, base wedge-shaped; margins reddish; surfaces convex, green to grey and covered with a powdery or waxy substance.

Flowers pendulous; sepals triangular, acute, glabrous; corolla often bulging in middle, red to orange; lobes lanceolate, recurved or recoiled; fleshy yellow gland that secretes nectar; carpels tapering into a long slender style.

Habitat: Cultivated as a garden ornamental, naturalized in different habitats, namely rocky outcrops and shrubland.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, SA, WA, NSW, ACT & Tas.
Native to South Africa.

Abundance:

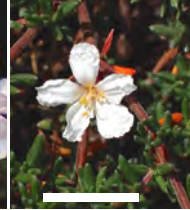


Photo: R. Lewis

ANGIOSPERMS

Frankeniaceae

SMALL SHRUBS



≈20mm

Frankenia pauciflora var. *gunnii* Summerh.

Common name: Southern Sea-heath

Description: Low, sprawling to erect shrub; branches covered in minute, spreading, hairs or glabrous.

Leaves elliptic, oblong, or ovate; petiole tapering distally where ciliate; leaf-blade leathery; margins rolled under; midrib inconspicuous to somewhat raised on lower surface; greyish yellow-green; glabrous or with scattered hairs.

Flowers solitary or 2–25 in terminal or axillary dichasia. Calyx 5-lobed, hairy; petals 5, white; stamens 6.

Flowering most of the year.

Habitat: Generally restricted to coastal saltmarshes.

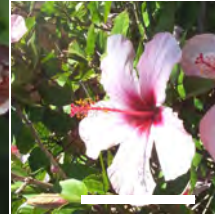
Distribution: Endemic. Vic, SA & Tas.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photos: J. Eichler

ANGIOSPERMS

Malvaceae



>100mm

Hibiscus spp.

Common name: Hibiscus

Description: Shrub.

Leaves alternate, having smooth or lobed margins; stipules linear.

Flowers bisexual, solitary in leaf axils; calyx 5-lobed, remaining attached in fruit; petals 5, light pink, darker pink at base; stamens numerous; long style branching towards end with multiple stigma.

Fruit a capsule, seeds kidney shaped.

Habitat: Cultivated as a garden ornamental, naturalized in different habitats, namely rocky outcrops and shrubland.

Distribution: Introduced. All States. PNG. East Timor.

Abundance: ■



≈60mm

Lantana strigocamara R.W.Sanders

Common name: Lantana

Description: Shrub, erect, branches ascending, angled.

Leaves ovate, wrinkled, margins serrate with 15–40 teeth per side; upper-surface dull green; under-surface slightly lighter or duller green, with the hairs on veins, apex tapering to a point.

Flower-head arising from leaf axil, densely many-flowered, white, yellow, orange, red or pink colours in various combinations.

Flowering throughout the year.

Fruit a fleshy drupe; blue-black; 2-seeded.

Habitat: Forest and coastal areas.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, SA & Tas. Native to Central America.

Abundance: ■ ■

Photo: R. Lewis

Malvaceae



<10mm

Lasiopetalum baueri Steetz.

Common name: Slender Velvet-bush

Description: Small shrub covered in very short greyish white interwoven hairs.

Leaves linear, glabrous above, dense rusty hairs beneath; margins flat or recurved.

Flower-head 2-6 flowered, crowded to open; calyx segments white or pink, greenish towards base, hairy; petals red and glandular; anthers red-brown.

Flowering Sep-Nov.

Fruit a Capsule, dense hairs.

Habitat: Mostly on red sandy areas and heathlands. Also found along coastlines.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, Tas & WA.

Abundance:





<20mm

Leucophyta brownii Cass.
syn. *Calocephalus brownii*

Common name: Cushion Bush

Description: Shrubs densely branched and cushion-like.

Leaves linear to ovate, covered in white to grey wooly hairs; uppermost leaves pressed closely but not fused to stem.

Flower-head a capitula, 30-110 per compound head; bracts 9-13, obovate or elliptic, hairy at apex, glandular hairs on midrib.

Flowering Nov-Apr.

Fruit a cypsela, cone-shaped; pappus with 10-13 bristles.

Habitat: Confined to coastal dunes and rocky clifftops.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, Tas, ACT & WA.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photos: R. Lewis

Fabaceae - Pea Family



SMALL SHRUBS

Lupinus spp.

Common name: Lupin

Description: Shrub, spreading, stems silky-hairy

Leaves alternate, dividing into leaflets, leaflet margins entire; stipules fused at base of petiole.

Flower-head a raceme; bracts falling off early; smaller bracts fused at base of calyx; calyx 2-lobed; corolla yellow; standard margins bent sharply backwards; wings fused at apex, enveloping keel; keel incurved, beaked with a dark apex; ovary without stalk, style incurved.

Flowering spring to summer.

Fruit a compressed pod; 2-12 seeds.

Habitat: Cultivated as ornamental, commonly found in dryland or coastal areas.

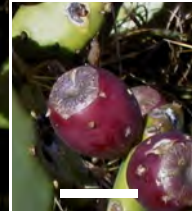
Distribution: Introduced. Vic, SA, WA, NSW, ACT, QLD & Tas.

Endemic to the Americas and Mediterranean.

Abundance:



ANGIOSPERMS



≈40mm

Opuntia stricta (Haw.) Haw.
syn. *Cactus strictus*

Common name: Common Prickly Pear

Description: Spreading to erect shrub, fleshy, grows in clumps, without distinct stems.

Cladodes compressed, elliptic to ovate, dull-green to grey-green; up to 30 areoles per cladode face, filled with brown "wool" and a short yellow barbed bristle; yellow-brown spines sometimes occurring 1 per areole on cladode margins.

Flower sepaloids greenish with yellow margins; petaloids spreading, yellow; stamens yellow; style and stigma pale yellow or white; floral tube smooth.

Flowering late Spring to Summer.

Fruit purplish-red, egg-shaped, flattened at apex, smooth, juicy, deciduous when ripe.

Habitat: Quick to colonize hot, open environments and areas with sandy soils.

Distribution: Introduced. All States. Endemic to the Americas.

Abundance: ■ ■

Photo: R. Lewis

Asteraceae - Daisy Family



≈10mm

SMALL SHRUBS

Ozothamnus turbinatus DC. *syn. Helichrysum paralium*

Common name: Coast Everlasting

Description: Dense spreading shrub, branches with white felty covering of wooly hairs.

Leaves spreading, linear, whitish or yellow-resinous; glabrous upper surface, cottony lower surface; margins rolled-under.

Flower-head hemispherical, capitula 20-40, dull yellow; bracts 25-36, innermost is spoon shaped, pleated, white; hermaphrodite florets 16-31.

Flowering Jan-Mar.

Fruit a cypsela, pappus bristles club-shaped.

Habitat: Exposed dunes and cliffs.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, SA, NSW, & Tas.

Abundance:



ANGIOSPERMS



≈40mm

Pelargonium australe Willd.

Common name: Austral Stork's-bill syn. Wild Geranium

Description: Perennial herb, stems densely covered in short hairs, taproot often fleshy.

Leaves opposite, lamina ovate to orbicular, hairy; usually cordate at base; margins toothed or wavy.

Flower-head an umbel, 6-12 flowered; sepals ovate, hairy, with spur; petals pink, upper pair veined or blotched darker; 7-8 fertile stamens.

Flowering Oct-Mar.

Fruit with two segments, hairy.

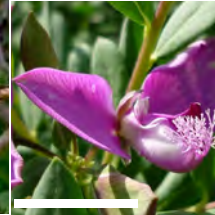
Habitat: Rocky hills, sand dunes and coastal cliffs.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, Tas, QLD, ACT & WA.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photos: R. Lewis

Fabaceae - Pea Family



≈20mm

Polygala myrtifolia L.

Common name: Myrtle-leaf Milkwort

Description: Dense spreading shrub, branches with white felty covering of wooly hairs.

Leaves spreading, linear, whitish or yellow-resinous; glabrous upper surface, cottony lower surface; margins rolled-under.

Flower-head hemispherical, capitula 20-40, dull yellow; bracts 25-36, innermost is spoon shaped, pleated, white; hermaphrodite florets 16-31.

Flowering Jan-Mar.

Fruit a cypsela, pappus bristles club-shaped.

Habitat: Coastal shrub-land.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, SA, WA, NSW, & Tas.

Native to South Africa.

Abundance:



Photo 1: R. Lewis, 2: J. Cabrera



≈30mmD

Rubus fruticosus L. agg.
syn. *Rubus plicatus*

Common name: Blackberry

Description: Perennial sprawling shrubs with herbaceous canes, or woody climbers; stems arching, rooting where the tips touch the ground, straight or hooked prickles.

Leaves alternate, usually digitate or pinnate; leaflets toothed or lobed; stipules narrow.

Flower-head a raceme, cyme or panicle; bracts present; sepals 5, bent; petals 5, spreading, white or pink; stamens numerous.

Flowering late Spring-Summer
Fruit compound, an aggregate of small juicy drupelets.

Habitat: Grows throughout higher rainfall regions, particularly in bushland, forest plantations, along streams and on grazing land. Seedlings will not survive in areas with moderate or heavy shade.

Distribution: Introduced. Invasive in all States. NZ, PNG & East Timor. Endemic to Europe.

Abundance: 

Photo: R. Lewis

Goodeniaceae



≈20mm

Scaevola calendulacea (J.Kenn.) Druce syn. *Scaevola suaevolens*

Common name: Dune Fan-flower

Description: Prostrate or ascending shrub; stems pubescent with appressed hairs.

Leaves elliptic to lanceolate or spatulate, thick, both surfaces appressed hairs; margins entire or toothed, recurved.

Flowers without stalks, in leafy spikes; bracteoles linear; sepals in a tube; corolla hairy outside, bearded inside, bright blue.

Flowering throughout the year.

Fruit subglobose, glabrous, succulent, white to purplish.

Habitat: Coastal dunes, often forming low mounds through accretion of windblown sand.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, ACT, SA, Tas & QLD.

Vulnerable threat status.

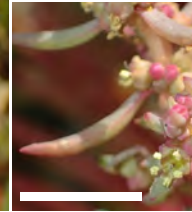
Abundance:



Photos: R. Lewis

Chenopodiaceae

SMALL SHRUBS



≈20mm

Suaeda australis (R.Br.) Moq. syn. *Chenopodium australe*

Common name: Austral Sea-blite

Description: Erect or rounded perennial, glabrous, bright green, yellowish or red-tinted.

Leaves linear, triangular or circular in cross-section.

Flowers bisexual, clustered in axils; perianth lobed from below midway; fruiting perianth slightly succulent, flattened-globular.

Flowering mostly Oct–Mar.

Seed horizontal, disc-shaped with convex sides; black or dark reddish-brown, smooth.

Habitat: Fringing coastal and estuarine saltmarsh or brackish swamps.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, Tas, SA, QLD, WA & NT.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photos: J. Eichler



≈20mm

Zieria littoralis J.A.Armstr.

Common name: Dwarf Zieria

Description: Spreading shrub stellate-velvety throughout.

Leaves 3-foliolate; leaflets ovate to broad-elliptic, rounded apex, covered in warts; upper surface dark green, lower surface grey-green; margins entire and recurved.

Flower-head 3-30 flowered; sepals triangular, covered in wooly hairs; petals white, overlapping each other, hairy.

Flowering winter-early summer.

Fruit a follicle, hairy; seed black to red-brown, striped with parallel ridges.

Habitat: In low heath on exposed rocky sites.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, ACT & Tas.

Vulnerable threat status.

Abundance:



Fabaceae - Pea Family

MEDIUM - LARGE SHRUBS



>100mm

Acacia suaveolens (Sm.) Willd syn. *Acacia angustifolia*

Common name: Sweet Wattle

Description: Slender, infrequently branched shrub.

Phyllodes ascending to erect, slightly curved, thin to moderately leathery, narrow at base, ending in a short, sharp point; prominent midrib; 2 obscure glands.

Flower-head a raceme, 6-12 heads, enclosed in conspicuous overlapping bracts; peduncles slender; heads globular 3-10 flowered, pale cream to lemon-yellow.

Flowering Apr-Oct.

Fruit a pod, leathery to crustaceous, purplish-brown to blue-black; seeds shiny, black with brown-black aril.

Habitat: Mostly near coast, but also growing inland in sand or on sandstone, in heath or woodland.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, Tas, SA, ACT, WA & QLD.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photo 1: M. Donald, 2: R. Lewis

Solanaceae - Nightshade Family



>100mm

MEDIUM - LARGE SHRUBS

Brugmansia spp.

Common name: Angel's Trumpet

Description: Large soft-wooded shrub, fine hairs throughout.

Leaves ovate to oblong, entire, base oblique.

Flowers fragrant, solitary, pendulous; calyx tubular, 5 lobes; corolla white, tube narrow at base, becoming funnel-shaped, lobes wavy with tips tapering to a point.

Flowering Spring to Autumn

Fruit spindle-shaped; seeds wrinkled.

Note: All parts of this plant can be toxic.

Habitat: Varied.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, Tas & QLD.

Endemic to South America.

Abundance:



ANGIOSPERMS

Pittosporaceae

MEDIUM - LARGE SHRUBS



>100mm

Bursaria spinosa Cav. syn. *Itea spinosa*

Common name: Australian Blackthorn syn. Sweet Bursaria or Kurwan

Description: Low shrub or tree, branches ending in a spine.

Leaves alternate, subtending spines often clustered; both surfaces glabrous, or sometimes lower surface is densely hairy; margins entire or toothed.

Flower-head a slender to pyramid shaped panicle; flowers white or cream; sepals ovate or triangular, falling off early; petals oblong to ovate.

Flowering Oct-Jan.

Fruit a brown capsule; seeds kidney shaped, brown, flat.

Habitat: Varied.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, Tas, SA, ACT, WA & QLD.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photos: R. Lewis

ANGIOSPERMS

Rubiaceae



≈10mmD

Coprosma repens A.Rich.

Common name: Mirror-bush

Description: Low shrub to small tree, stout branches, glabrous or with fine hairs.

Leaves ovate to orbicular, fleshy; upper and lower surface of different colour, glabrous; upper surface lustrous; prominent pits on undersurface at the junction of 2 veins; stipules triangular and toothed.

Flowers unisexual, clustered in leaf axils; male flowers in dense compound clusters; calyx minute, 4-lobed; corolla a funnel; female flowers in 3-flowered clusters; calyx with 4 short rounded teeth; corolla a tube; style 2-branched.

Flowering Sep-Dec.

Fruit a drupe, globose, orange-red.

Habitat: Originally planted as a coastal hedge or windbreak, now widely naturalized in coastal scrubs, forests and shrub-lands.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, Tas, SA, ACT & WA.

Native to New Zealand.

Abundance:



Photos: R. Lewis



≈10mm

Exocarpos cupressiformis Labill.
syn. *Exocarpos cupressiformis*

Common name: Cherry Ballart syn. Native Cherry

Description: Shrub or small pyramid-shaped tree, bright green or yellowish-green, numerous branchlets, usually pendulous with parallel ridges. Leaves alternate, scale-like, triangular or lanceolate, spreading.

Flower-heads short, dense, spikes or clusters in uppermost leaf axils; 1 flower per spike; tepals 5, yellow-green. Fruiting receptacle orange to red, edible.

Flowering Sep-May.

Fruit a drupe, green to brown.

Habitat: Lowland open forests and woodlands with higher rainfall.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, Tas, SA, ACT, WA & QLD.

Abundance: ■ ■

Goodeniaceae



MEDIUM - LARGE SHRUBS

Goodenia ovata Sm.

Common name: Hop Goodenia

Description: Erect shrub, somewhat sticky, glabrous, young stems are ribbed. Leaves ovate to elliptic, glandular, margins toothed.

Flower-head a thyse or raceme, pedicels jointed; bracts linear; sepals linear to lanceolate; corolla hairy inside, yellow; stigma enclosed by a cup. Flowering Oct-Mar.

Fruit cylindrical; seeds elliptic with a narrow wing, pale brown to white, shiny, warty.

Habitat: Varied, particularly in moist mountainous forests.

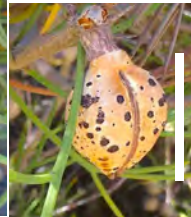
Distribution: Endemic. Vic, QLD, NSW, Tas, SA & ACT.

Abundance: 

ANGIOSPERMS

Proteaceae

MEDIUM - LARGE SHRUBS



≈30mm

Hakea drupacea (C.F.Gaertn.) Roem. & Schult.

Common name: Sweet-scented Hakea

Description: Dense, spreading or erect shrub; branchlets hairy. Leaves usually divided into 2–8 circular segments, glabrous or appressed hairy. Flowerhead 46–84 flowered; rachis hairy, with white or pale brown appressed hairs; pedicel glabrous; perianth straight in bud, glabrous, pale pink ageing to white; pollen presenter an erect cone. Flowering Mar–Jun.

Fruit ovate and larger to one side; on recurved stalk, black, warted; horned; seed not occupying whole valve face, winged partly down one side, black or grey.

Habitat: Commonly planted as a hardy, salt-tolerant shrub in coastal areas, now naturalised in several habitats, particularly through regeneration following bushfires.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, QLD, NSW, Tas, SA, WA & ACT.

Abundance:



Photo: J. Buckeridge

ANGIOSPERMS

Proteaceae



MEDIUM - LARGE SHRUBS

Hakea laurina R.Br

Common name: Pincushion Hakea syn. Emu Bush

Description: Erect shrub to small tree, branchlets almost glabrous.

Leaves, ovate-elliptic, flat; 3-7 prominent lengthwise veins.

Flower-head a spherical umbel; perianth cream, soon turning pink or reddish; pollen presenter cone-shaped.

Flowering Apr-Aug.

Fruit 1-10 per leaf axil, beaked; wing extending down both sides of body.

Habitat: Mainly on sandy soils.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, Tas, SA, ACT, WA & QLD.

Abundance: 

ANGIOSPERMS

Myrtaceae

MEDIUM - LARGE SHRUBS



≈20mm

Leptospermum laevigatum (Gaertn.) F.Muell. syn. *Fabricia laevigatum*

Common name: Coast Teatree

Description: Shrub or tree, bark on small stems smooth or becoming rough, young stems with a groove near base of petiole.

Leaves obovate, flat, glabrous, grey-green; apex obtuse with a small point.

Flowers with a glabrous floral tube, without pedicel; sepals triangular, silky on outer surface; petals white.

Flowering Aug-Nov.

Fruit deciduous, conical, surface glabrous and wrinkly; seeds often winged, patterned on top like a network of veins.

Habitat: Sand dunes and sandy coastlines.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, QLD, NSW, Tas, SA, ACT & WA.

Abundance: 

Photo 1: L. Boyce, 2: R. Lewis

ANGIOSPERMS

Ericaceae



≈5mm

Leucopogon parviflorus (Andrews) Lindl. syn. *Styphelia richei*

Common name: Coast Beard-heath

Description: Erect shrub, branchlets minutely hairy.

Leaves erect to spreading, elliptic to lanceolate, slightly convex to flat; upper and lower surface of leaves slightly different colour, glabrous; apex thickened and curved like a gutter.

Flowers white, 6-13 in spikes; bracts ovate, glabrous; sepals white, ovate, glabrous; corolla with dense tufts of hairs within; ovary with 4-5 chambers.

Flowering Sep-Nov.

Fruit spherical, white and fleshy when ripe.

Habitat: Coastal dunes, sandstone and limestone slopes along the coastline.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, WA, QLD, Tas & NZ.

Abundance:





≈10mm

Lycium ferocissimum Miers.

Common name: African Boxthorn

Description: Intricately branched shrub, glabrous, main branches rigid; lateral branches leafy, ending in a spine.

Leaves clustered, slightly fleshy, green, obovate; apex obtuse or rounded; base narrowing gradually into a short petiole; margins entire.

Flowers solitary in axils; calyx tubular, lobes triangular; fruiting calyx often 2-lipped; corolla pale lilac or white, often blotched lilac towards base; 5 exerted stamens.

Flowering Spring and Summer.

Fruit a berry, orange-red, globose; seeds 35-70, dull yellow.

Habitat: Used as an ornamental hedge plant, now a weed of disturbed urban sites and agricultural land.

Distribution: Introduced. Invasive in All States.

Endemic to South Africa.

Abundance:





Monotoca elliptica (Sm.) R.Br. syn. *Styphelia elliptica*

Common name: Tree Broom-heath

Description: Densely branched shrub or tree, branchlets hairy.

Leaves elliptic to lanceolate, ending in a short sharp point, flat; lower surface light green to whitish-grey.

Flower-heads in racemes; bracts concave and falling off early; corolla whitish-cream, bell-shaped.

Flowering Jun-Sep.

Fruit red-orange at maturity.

Habitat: Near-coastal areas preferring sandy soils and rock outcrops. Common in coastal shrub-land and lowland forests.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, Tas, ACT & QLD.

Abundance: 

Asteraceae

MEDIUM - LARGE SHRUBS



≈10mmD

Olearia axillaris (DC.) Benth.

Common name: Coast Daisy-bush, Wild Rosemary

Description: Bushy shrub, branchlets densely white-cottony, glandular.

Leaves alternate, linear; upper surface green or grey-green, with cobwebby hairs; lower surface densely white-cottony; margins recurved.

Flower-head a capitula without pedicel, solitary in leaf axils; bracts 3-6 series, mostly glabrous but with a patch of cottony hairs near apex; ray florets white; disc florets yellow.

Flowering Dec-May.

Fruit a cypsela, 6-9 ribbed, silky with dense hairs pressed closely to surface; pappus bristles straw coloured.

Habitat: Coastal dunes and calcium carbonate rich cliffs

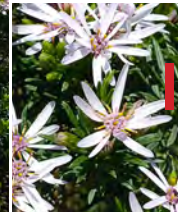
Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, ACT, WA & Tas.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■ ■

Photo 1: R. Lewis, 2: M. Ivey

ANGIOSPERMS

Asteraceae



≈10mm

MEDIUM - LARGE SHRUBS

Olearia glutinosa (Lindl.) Benth.

Common name: Sticky Daisy-bush

Description: Bushy glabrous shrub, sticky branchlets and foliage.

Leaves alternate, linear; midrib prominent beneath; margins flat to recurved.

Flower-head a capitula in compact corymbs; bracts at base of flower-head are urn-shaped; bracts 2-3 series, glabrous, sticky; ray florets mauve, pink or white; disc florets, violet, pink or yellow.

Flowering Nov-Jan.

Fruit a cylindric cypsela, 6-ribbed; pappus bristles pinkish or straw coloured.

Habitat: Coastal dunes and sandstone or limestone clifftops.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA & Tas.

Abundance:



ANGIOSPERMS

Chenopodiaceae

MEDIUM - LARGE SHRUBS



≈5mmD

Rhagodia candolleana Moq. subsp. *candolleana*

Common name: Seaberry Saltbush

Description: Sprawling shrub, branches striped with parallel ridges.

Leaves opposite or alternate, broadly ovate or hastate; upper surface shining green and glabrous; lower surface greyish and scaly.

Flower-head a pyramidal panicle; tepals mealy on outer surface, enlarging when in fruit.

Flowering Sep-Dec.

Fruit a crimson berry, clasped by reddish fruiting perianth; seed black and granular.

Habitat: Along coastlines and inland around salt or brackish lakes

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, Tas, SA & WA.

Abundance:



Photo 1: R. Lewis, 2: L. Boyce

ANGIOSPERMS

Solanaceae



≈20mmD

Solanum laciniatum Aiton.

Common name: Kangaroo Apple

Description: Erect green shrub, often with purplish stems, glabrous except for minute glandular hairs on young growth. Leaves lobed or entire, apex tapering to a point, base narrowing; deeply lobed leaves broad-ovate; entire leaves lanceolate.

Flower-head simple to 10-flowered; calyx lobes triangular, enlarging when in fruit; corolla circular and flattened, deep purplish-blue with notched lobes. Flowering Spring and Summer.

Fruit an ovoid berry, yellow to orange-yellow; seeds reddish-brown.

Habitat: Coastal areas, and rocky sites and disturbed areas.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, Tas, SA, ACT & WA.

Abundance:



Photo 1: L. Boyce, 2: R. Lewis



≈20mm

Ulex europaeus L.

Common name: Gorse syn. Furze

Description: Erect spiny shrub, stems with parallel ridges, well-branched, ending in a spine, hairy, blue-green in colour with a whitish bloom. Phyllodes linear, spiny, grooved lengthwise. Flowers rising from leaf axils, solitary, clustered towards ends of branches; pedicels with long soft hairs; bracts hairy and yellow; calyx yellow and hairy. Flowering Aug-Oct. Fruit a pod, compressed, hairy; seeds 2-6, brown with white aril.

Habitat: Garden plant that has become widely naturalized in higher rainfall parts of Victoria, has been declared a noxious weed.

Distribution: Introduced. Invasive in Vic, NSW, Tas, SA, ACT, WA & QLD. Endemic to Europe.

Abundance: 

Photo 1: R. Lewis

Lamiaceae - Mint Family



<20mm

MEDIUM - LARGE SHRUBS

Westringia fruticosa (Willd.) Druce

Common name: Coastal Rosemary

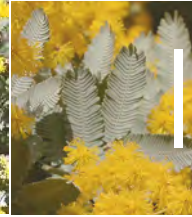
Description: Dense shrub. Leaves in whorls of 4, lanceolate; margins entire, recurved so that often only mid-rib is visible; lower surface with dense white hairs. Flower calyx appearing white as outer surface is covered with dense white hairs; lobes triangular; corolla white with purplish or brownish dots. Flowering throughout year.

Habitat: Coastal areas, often on exposed cliffs, commonly cultivated for gardens.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, ACT & QLD.

Abundance: 

ANGIOSPERMS



≈40mm

Acacia baileyana F.Muell.
syn. *Racosperma baileyanum*

Common name: Cootamundra Wattle

Description: Small tree or shrub; bark smooth and brown; branches slightly angled and furrowed with waxy bloom. Leaves bipinnate, silvery-blue, glaucous; with a raised gland at the junction of top few pinnae pairs; pinnules crowded, linear, apex tapering to a point. Flower-head a raceme; heads globular, 20-25 flowered, bright yellow. Fruit a pod, straight or slightly curved, brown to black. Flowering Jun-Sep.

Habitat: Dry woodland and open-forests, usually occurs on poor shallow soils.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, ACT, Qld, Tas & WA.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photos: R. Lewis

Fabaceae



>100mm

SMALL - MEDIUM TREES

Acacia decurrens Willd. syn. *Mimosa decurrens*

Common name: Early Black-wattle

Description: Tree, bark deeply fissured, dark grey to black, branchlets with wing-like ridges.

Leaves bipinnate, dark green; raised gland at the junction of each pinna pair; pinnae in 5-15 pairs; pinnules in 14-40 pairs.

Flower-head a raceme or panicle; heads globular, 20-30 flowered, bright yellow.

Flowering Jul-Sep.

Fruit a flat pod, dark brown, thick margins.

Habitat: Dry to moist open forest and woodland.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, ACT, Tas, WA & QLD.

Abundance:



ANGIOSPERMS



>100mm

Acacia longifolia (Andrews) Willd. subsp. *sophorae*
syn. *Mimosa longifolia*

Common name: Coastal Wattle

Description: Spreading shrub or erect tree.

Phyllodes linear to elliptic, leathery, sometimes fleshy; 2-4 prominent primary veins; often yellowish-green.

Flower-head a spike, 1-2 per axil, bright yellow; flowers having 4 parts; sepals united and glabrous.

Fruit a pod, coiled or contorted, leathery; sometimes drawn out into a long beak; seeds shiny.

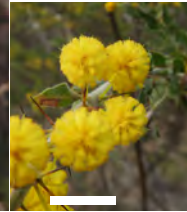
Habitat: Forest communities and coastal heath and scrublands, also found on coastal foredunes.

Distribution: Endemic. All States.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■ ■

Photos: R. Lewis

Fabaceae



≈10mmD

Acacia paradoxa D.C. syn. *Acacia armata*

Common name: Hedge Wattle syn. Kangaroo Thorn

Description: Straggly to dense, intricate tree, branches often down-arched; branchlets ribbed.

Phyllodes erect, asymmetrical, lanceolate; margins wavy; midrib off-centre.

Peduncle 1 per leaf axil dense globular flower-head, 30-50 flowered, golden; flowers with sepals united.

Flowering Aug-Nov.

Fruit a pod, densely hairy; seeds oblong, shiny, dark brown.

Habitat: Woodland or open forest.

Distribution: Endemic. All States.

Abundance:



Casuarinaceae

SMALL - MEDIUM TREES



Allocasuarina verticillata (Lam.) L.A.S.Johnson
syn. *Casuarina verticillata*

Common name: Drooping Sheoak

Description: Dioecious tree, second-last branchlets woody, bark fissured. Branchlets drooping; internodes broadened at end near teeth, teeth spreading, densely hairy in furrows; male spikes, 2-4 whorls per cm; cones cylindrical to barrel-shaped; bracts slender ending in short sharp points; valves in several rows, sometimes extending well beyond cone body. Seeds are winged, very dark brown. Flowers all year.

Habitat: Rocky coastlines, basalt plains and hills, and dry highland rocky hills and ridges.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, ACT, Tas, WA & QLD.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photos: J. Buckeridge

ANGIOSPERMS

Proteaceae



SMALL - MEDIUM TREES

Banksia integrifolia L.f. subsp. *Integrifolia*

Common name: Coast Banksia

Description: Erect tree, grey-brown bark, thick, rough, tessellated, branchlets with parallel ridges.

Leaves whorled, lanceolate; upper surface dark green, dull to shiny; lower surface covered with white wooly hairs; mid-rib with rusty hairs; apex ending in a short sharp point; margins flat or slightly recurved.

Flower-head with pale yellow tepals, hairy, deciduous; curved style, yellow, deciduous. Flowering Jan-Jun.

Follicles many, opening spontaneously on ripening 8-10 months after time of flowering; body of seed crescent shaped, winged.

Habitat: Coastal areas.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, ACT, Tas & QLD.

Abundance: 

Photo 1: R. Lewis, 2: J. Tann

ANGIOSPERMS

Casuarinaceae

SMALL - MEDIUM TREES



≈20mm

Casuarina glauca Sieber ex Spreng.

Common name: Swamp She-oak syn. River Oak

Description: Tree freely suckering from roots. Branchlets spreading to drooping; internodes distinctly broader at apex, smooth, waxy; ribs flat to rounded; leaves become reduced to teeth, 12–17, erect, recurved on young permanent shoots. Flowerhead of male spikes. Female cones cylindrical; winged seeds.

Habitat: Grown as ornamental, sometimes planted for soil stabilisation near creeks and rivers.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, ACT, Tas, WA & QLD.

Abundance:



Photo 1: J. Eichler, 2: J. Tann

ANGIOSPERMS

Asteraceae - Daisy Family



SMALL - MEDIUM TREES

Dahlia imperialis Roezl ex Ortgies

Common name: Bell Tree Dahlia

Description: Herbaceous and tuberous perennial tree; developing brittle, cane-like, 4-angled stems with swollen nodes. Leaves are tri-pinnate. Flower-heads are pendant, with ray florets mauve-pink. Flowering in Autumn.

Habitat: Found in uplands and mountains in its native continent of the Americas. Propagated as an ornamental plant in Australian gardens.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, SA, Qld, & Tas.
Endemic to Mexico, Central America and Colombia.

Abundance: ■

ANGIOSPERMS

Myrtaceae

SMALL - MEDIUM TREES



≈70mm

Melaleuca armillaris (Sol. ex Gaertn.) Sm.

Common name: Bracelet Honey-myrtle

Description: Shrub with hard or corky bark.

Leaves alternate, linear, glabrous, apex recurved.

Flower-head many flowered dense spikes, borne low on branches; flowers solitary within each bract, white or rarely pink; petals ovate; stamens 16-18 per bundle.

Flowering in Summer.

Fruit a capsule, short and cylindrical.

Habitat: Near-coastal sandy heaths or scrubs above saltmarsh. Also found in riparian scrubs, and rocky coastlines.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, ACT, Tas & WA.

Abundance:



Photos: M. Donald

ANGIOSPERMS

Myrtaceae



<20mm

Melaleuca ericifolia Sm. syn. *Myrtoleucdenron ericifolium*

Common name: Swamp Paperbark

Description: Leaves scattered or in whorls of 3, linear; tip blunt and often recurved; glands sometimes present on lower surface.

Flower-head a short spike, hairy axis that soon grows into a leafy shoot; flowers 1 per bract; stamens in a bundle, cream to white.

Flowering in Spring.

Fruit a capsule with a wavy rim produced by remains of sepals.

Habitat: Mostly at low elevations in moist environments. Often occurring in seasonally inundated sites such as swamps, riversides, and lakesides. Also found in subsaline environments.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, & Tas.

Abundance:



Myrtaceae

SMALL - MEDIUM TREES



≈60mm

Melaleuca lanceolata Otto

Common name: Moonah syn. Black Paperbark

Description: Small tree with hard, rough bark, young branches hairy.

Leaves alternate, glabrous, linear with acute apex, often recurved.

Flower-head many-flowered dense spikes with hairy rachis; flowers white, in 3's within each bract; petals ovate; stamens 8-14 per bundle, white or cream.

Flowering mainly in summer.

Fruit a capsule, globose to urn-shaped.

Habitat: Sandy and calcareous soils on coastal dunes and cliffs, or can be found inland along creek beds at edges of rivers and waterbodies.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, ACT, Tas, WA & QLD.

Abundance:



Photo 1: R. Lewis, 2: Rexness

ANGIOSPERMS

Scrophulariaceae



SMALL - MEDIUM TREES

Myoporum insulare R.Br. syn. *Bertolonia glandulara*

Common name: Common Boobialla syn. Native Juniper

Description: Shrub or tree, glabrous, branches smooth or with warts. Leaves alternate, scattered, lanceolate to elliptic, thick and fleshy; margins entire or serrate towards apex. Flower-head 3-8 flowered, pedicels glabrous; sepals ovate, overlapping; margins winged, sometimes irregularly toothed; corolla glabrous outside, inside hairy, white, often spotted purplish on lobes and upper tube. Flowering Sep-Dec. Fruit globose, succulent, bluish-purple, drying brown.

Habitat: Coastal dunes and cliffs, extending inland west of Melbourne.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, ACT, Tas, WA & QLD.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■ ■

ANGIOSPERMS



≈60mm

Syzygium smithii (Poir.) Nied.
syn. *Acmena smithii*

Common name: Lilly-pilly syn. *Acmena*

Description: Tree with red-brown bark, smooth to slightly flaky, vertical cracks appearing on older stems, young twigs often square in cross-section.

Leaves lanceolate to ovate, glabrous; dark green upper surface; pale green lower surface; apex tapering to a point with a rounded tip; many distinct side veins; many oil glands.

Flower-head many-flowered, cream-white; calyx lobes deciduous; stamens in whorls.

Flowering Nov-Feb.

Fruit a sphere, white to purple.

Habitat: Mainly in rainforest from coast to lower ranges, often found along watercourses.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, Qld, & Tas.

Abundance: ■ ■ ■

Photo 1: A. Kokai, 2: R. Lewis

Fabaceae



≈100mm

SMALL - MEDIUM TREES

Virgilia sp.

Common name: *Virgilia*

Description: Ornamental medium sized tree with a bushy growth habit. Leaves are shiny and hairy, pinnately lobed. Flowers are pea-like, pinkish-mauve to violet-pink; keel with dark purple tips. Fruit is a flat brown pod.

Habitat: Grown as an ornamental now occurs along forest margins.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic & Tas. Endemic to Southern Africa.

Abundance: ■

ANGIOSPERMS



≈30mm

Eucalyptus botryoides Sm.

Common name: Southern Mahogany syn. Bangalay

Description: Bark rough on trunk and larger limbs, in thick long slabs; branches smooth.

Juvenile leaves opposite then alternate, ovate-lanceolate, dull, green, discolorous; adult leaves alternate, lanceolate, discolorous, green; pinnate side veins.

Flower-head born in leaf axils, unbranched; 7–11-flowered; flowers white or creamy white; buds oblong-ovoid, scar present; lid conical or hemispherical; stamens bent; anthers wedge-shaped; ovules in 4 vertical rows.

Flowering Feb.

Fruit cylindric or barrel-shaped; valves 3 or 4; seed brown, with toothed edges.

Habitat: Coastal sandy plains and alluvial terraces, also in gullies of foothills.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, ACT, Tas, QLD & WA.

Abundance:



Photo: R. Lewis

Myrtaceae



LARGE TREES

ANGIOSPERMS

Eucalyptus camaldulensis Dehnh.

Common name: River Red-gum

Description: Bark smooth, mottled, shedding to show white, yellow and grey, becoming rough at base.

Juvenile leaves alternate, lanceolate, dull green; adult leaves alternate, lanceolate, dull green; veins dense; numerous clear, yellow and green island oil glands.

Flower-heads born in leaf axils, unbranched; 7-flowered; flowers white; bud tube hemispherical; lid beaked, scar present; stamens bent; anthers wedge-shaped; ovules in 6 vertical rows. Flowering Summer.

Fruit tube hemispherical; valves 4, exserted; seed yellow or yellow-brown, cube, smooth.

Habitat: Mainly along rivers.

Distribution: Endemic. All States.

Abundance: ■

Photo: R. Lewis

Myrtaceae

LARGE TREES



≈5mm

Eucalyptus globulus Labill.

Common name: Southern Blue-gum

Description: Bark smooth, shedding in strips and slabs, yellowish or grey.

Juvenile leaves without stalk, mostly opposite, elliptic-ovate, glaucous; adult leaves, alternate, falcate-lanceolate, glossy, green-dark green; veins dense, with numerous oil glands.

Flower-heads born in leaf axils, unbranched; many flowered; bud tube conical; lid flattened, warty, glaucous or green, scarred; stamens bent; anthers wedge-shaped; ovules in vertical rows; flowers white.

Flowering Jan-Feb.

Fruit conical to hemispherical; valves 4-5; seed black-brown, flattened, shallow veins.

Habitat: Native to coastal sclerophyll forests, now widely naturalised.

Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, ACT, Tas, QLD & WA.

Abundance:



Photos: J. Buckeridge

ANGIOSPERMS

Myrtaceae



≈5mmD

LARGE TREES

Eucalyptus viminalis Labill.

Common name: Manna Gum

Description: Bark smooth, or thick stocking of rough bark above base, or trunk wholly rough-barked; bark of upper trunk and branches shedding in long ribbons; smooth bark grey, white or yellowish.

Juvenile leaves without stalks, opposite, lanceolate, green; adult leaves alternate, lanceolate, glossy, green; veins dense; numerous oil glands.

Flower-heads born in leaf axils, unbranched; 3-7 flowered, white; buds spindle-shaped or ovoid, scarred; lid conical; ovules in 4 vertical rows.

Flowering Jan-Mar.

Fruit cupular to hemispherical, valves 3-4, exerted; seed brown to blackish, veined.

Habitat: Sandy coastal heaths.

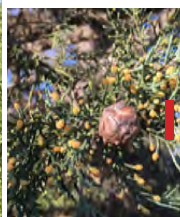
Distribution: Endemic. Vic, NSW, SA, ACT, Tas & NT.

Abundance: ■

ANGIOSPERMS

Cupressaceae

LARGE TREES



≈30mm

Hesperocyparis macrocarpa (Hartw. ex Gordon) Bartel

syn. *Cupressus macrocarpa*

Common name: Monterey Cypress

Description: Widely spreading tree, flat crown; bark brown, becoming whitish with age, shallow ridges; branches horizontally spreading; branchlets quadrangular or triangular, in 2-dimensional sprays. Leaves dark green, lacking gland on under-surface; apex obtuse or acute.

Male cones oblong or elliptic; female cones ovoid to cylindrical; scales 8–14, each with 6–20 seeds, seeds warty.

Habitat: Widely grown as windbreaks, hedges and along sidewalks, known to self-seed.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, SA, ACT, Tas & WA. Native to California (USA).

Abundance: ■

Photos: L. Boyce

GYMNOSPERMS



Pinus patula Schiede ex Schlttdl. & Cham.

Common name: Patula Pine syn. Mexican Weeping Pine

Description: Bark orange-brown, reddish-brown higher up trunk, fissured. Winter buds not resinous; scales fringed. Leaves in clusters of 3–5, bright green, becoming pendulous. Female cones in clusters of 2–5, pendulous, pale brown to grey, ovoid-cylindrical, strongly asymmetrical, remaining attached; exposed portion of scale angular with minute spine. Seed with a well-developed wing.

Habitat: Grown as ornamental and sometimes for timber, now naturalised.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, ACT, Tas, QLD & WA. Native to highlands of Mexico.

Abundance: ■



>100mm

Pinus radiata D. Don

Common name: Radiata Pine syn. Monterey Pine

Description: Bark dark brown, divided into deep ridges on old trees. Winter buds resinous; scales deciduous, pressed closely against bud. Leaves in groups of three, slender, grass-green.

Female cones solitary or in clusters, short stalks, pendulous, greyish-brown, asymmetrically ovoid, usually remaining attached; exposed portion of scale rounded with small point. Seed with a well-developed wing.

Habitat: Widely planted for softwood timber and ornamental. becoming naturalized in surrounding environment by wind-blown seeds.

Distribution: Introduced. Vic, NSW, SA, ACT, Tas & WA. Native to California (USA) and Mexico.

Abundance: ■

Photos: J. Buckeridge

Leaves

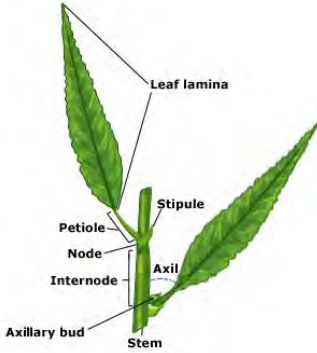


Diagram of simple leaf

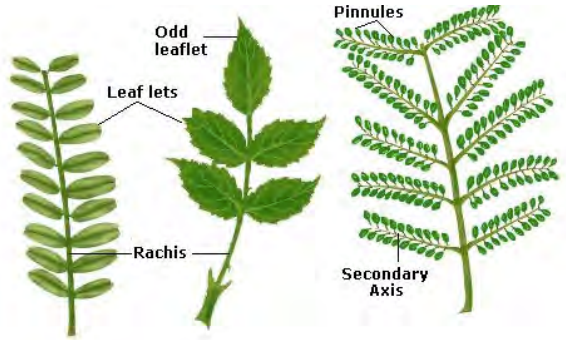
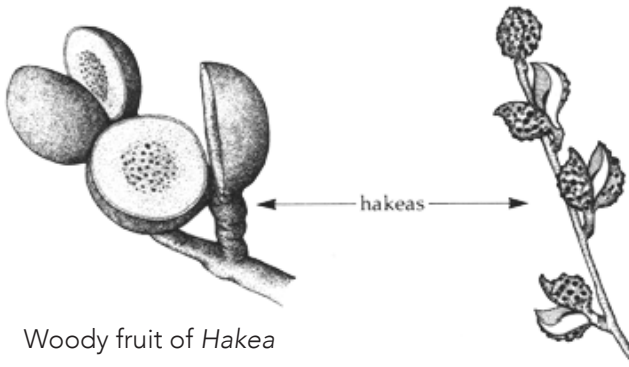


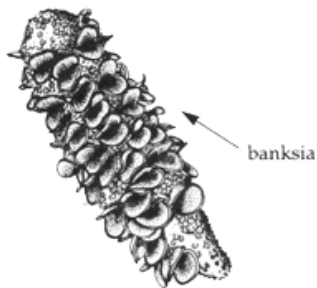
Diagram of compound leaves

ref: TutorVista.com

Woody Fruit of *Protaceae* Family



Woody fruit of *Hakea*



Woody fruit of a *Banksia*

ref: ANBG.gov.au

Flowers

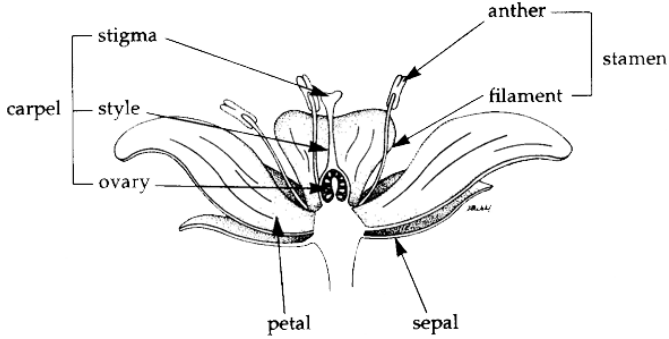
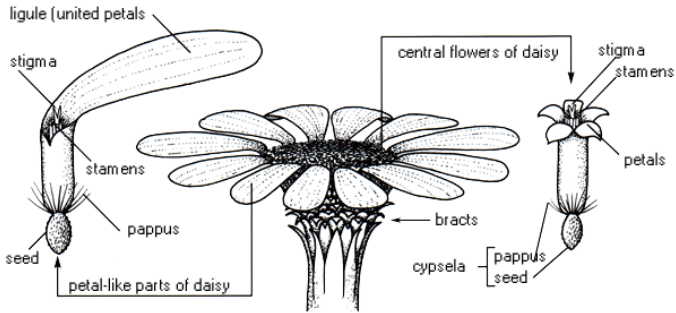


Diagram of simple flower



A daisy flower (Asteraceae) — a composite head of many small flowers

Diagram of composite flower: Asteraceae

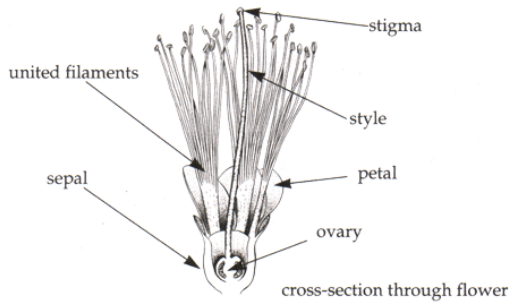


diagram of *Melaleuca* flower

ref: ANBG.gov.au

Glossary

Sources: VICFLORA (RBGV), PlantNET (RBGsyd)

Achene- dry 1-seeded fruit not opening by valves or regular lines

Anther- pollen-bearing part of the stamen

Appressed- pressed closely, but not fused

Aril- an appendage which partly or wholly covers a seed

Auriferous- containing gold

Awn- fine bristle-like appendage on the glumes or lemmas on some grass spikelets

Calcareous- containing calcium carbonate

Calyx- the outer whorl of a flower, usually green; the sepals of a flower collectively

Capitulum- a dense cluster of sessile, or almost sessile, flowers or florets

Caryopsis- Dry one-seeded fruit where ovary wall fused with seed coat, does not open at maturity

Cladodes- a photosynthetic stem, leaf-like

Compound- composed of several parts; eg. flower-head made up of an aggregate of smaller flower-heads

Concavo-convex- concave on one side and convex of the opposite side

Cordate- base of leaf like notch at bottom of heart shape

Corm- fleshy, swollen stem base, usually underground, stores food reserves, with buds naked or covered by very thin scales; a type of rootstock

Corolla- inner whorl of non-fertile parts in a flower, often soft and coloured conspicuously; the petals of a flower collectively

Corymb/corymbose- flower-head with branches starting at different points but reaching about the same height

Culms- the hollow stem of a grass

Cupular- shaped like a cup

Cyathia- cup shaped male inflorescence that resemble a flower e.g. in Euphorbia

Cyme- a flower cluster with a central stem, ending in a single primary terminal flower

Cypsel- A dry single-seeded fruit, as in the daisy and related plants

Dichasia- a cymose flower-head, all branches below the flower in opposite pairs

Digitate- with segments spreading from a common centre; like fingers of a hand

Discolorous- upper and lower surfaces of a different colour

Distal- remote from the point of attachment or axis; the free end

Ellipsoid- 3-dimensional shape, like a flattened circle

Falcate- curved like the blade of a scythe

Glabrous- without surface ornamentation such as hairs, scales or bristles

Glaucous- blue-green in colour with a whitish bloom, e.g. the young leaves of many eucalypts

Glume- bract subtending the floret, forming the lowermost organs of a spikelet

Hastate- narrow and pointed but abruptly enlarged at the base into two acute diverging lobes (mainly at the base of a leaf)

Haustorium/ haustoria- absorbing organ of some parasitic plants, developed for penetration of tissue of host plant

Hemispherical- half-sphere

Involucre (adj. Involucral)- a group of bracts surrounding the base of a flowerhead

Keel- a ridge like the keel of a boat e.g.. structure formed by the fusion of two petals

Labellum- lip; 1 of 3 or 5 petals which is (usually) different from the others e.g. in Orchidaceae

Lanceolate- leaves shaped like blade of a lance, broadest in lowest half

Lemma- the lower of two bracts of a grass flower

Ligule- appendage on the top of a the sheath of grass leaves or near the base of a leaf

Lustrous- having lustre; shiny

Obtuse- blunt or rounded; converging edges making an angle of more than 90°

Orbicular- flat and more or less circular

Ovate- shaped like section cut through long axis of egg

Palmately- divided into several leaflets arising from the same point

Panicle- a many branched flower-head, each bearing two or more flowers

Pappus- in daisy florets, a tuft or ring of hairs or scales borne above the ovary and outside the corolla; a tuft of hairs on a fruit

Pedicel- stalk supporting individual flower or fruit

Peduncle- stalk that supports group of flowers or fruits

Pendulous- hanging; like a pendulum

Phyllodes- a leaf with the blade much reduced; petiole and rachis perform functions of the whole leaf

Pinnae- primary segments of a compound leaf

Pinnate- compound leaf with leaflets arranged on each side of common petiole; can also apply to arrangement of veins in relation to main vein

Pinnatisect- having lobes with incisions that extend almost, or up to midrib

Pinnules- ultimate leaflet of a compound leaf

Perianth- the calyx and corolla of a flower collectively

Raceme- flower-head where a series of lateral flowers is arranged along a single stem, each flower has a stalk

Rachis- the axis of a flower-head or a pinnate leaf, including the lowermost pedicel attachment

Radiate- when the flower-head has ligulate flowers around circumference and tubular flowers in centre

Rhombic- an oblique figure with four equal sides

Scabrous- rough to touch

Scape- a stem-like, flowering stalk of a plant with radical leaves

Sclerophyll- a plant with hard, stiff leaves; leaves stiffened with thick-walled cells

Sepal- one of the segments or divisions of the outer whorl of a flower

Sessile- without a stalk

Spathulate- spoon-shaped

Spikelet- secondary spike, part of a flower-head

Stamen- male organ of a flower; stalk and pollen bearing anther

Staminode- sterile stamen, sometimes petal-like

Standard- the large posterior petal of pea-flowers

Stellate- star-shaped (eg. a type of hair)

Stipule- small appendage at the bases of leaves in many dicotyledons

Sward- extensive, more or less even cover of a surface

Umbell- a racemose flower-head, all the individual flower stalks arise in a cluster at the top of the peduncle and are of about equal length

Utricle- a small bladder (enclosing a fruit)

Tepal- when sepals and petals are almost identical in appearance

Thyrse- a branched inflorescence in which the main axis is racemose and the lateral branches cymose

References

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