

Austrodolichos

Twining perennial. Leaves pinnate, with three leaflets. Bracteoles large, prominent. Stamens 10, 9 filaments joined for c. ½ their length in a dorsally split tube, 1 free. Style hairless. A genus endemic to Australia.

Austrodolichos errabundus

Tuberous-rooted perennial, with fine twining stems to 1m long, growing close to the ground, more or less covered with downward-pointing hairs. Stipules 3-5mm long, 2mm wide towards the base, minutely hairy along the margins, spreading and reflexing with age. Petiole 5-30mm long, rachis 2-8mm long, both sparsely hairy. Stipels 1-1.5mm long. Leaflets dull green, 15-45mm long, 4-20mm wide, vary variable in shape, the margins sometimes almost parallel, or more often broadest at or below the mid-point and tapering to either end, occasionally the lateral leaflets with a prominent lobe towards the base,



Austrodolichos errabundus, Weipa, 12°39'S, 141°54'E, Cult.

sparsely hairy on the undersurface, especially along the veins, sparsely hairy or hairless on the upper surface.

Flowers single or rarely paired on a 5-20mm peduncle within leaf axils and from upper leafless nodes, the flower borne on a 3-5mm pedicel. Calyx largely covered by a pair of 4-6mm long, 3-4mm wide persistent bracteoles. Calyx 5-8mm long, minutely hairy, the sepals joined for about ½ their length, the two dorsal sepals joined to the rounded (but slightly indented) tip. Standard pink to light purple, darker towards the throat, c. 15mm high, 28mm wide, strongly indented at the apex. Wings 16-25mm long, pink to light purple, darker towards the base, wide-spreading, slightly longer than the straight, light purple keel.

Pod 50-90mm long, 5-7mm wide, covered with minute, insignificant hairs, light brown at maturity, splitting, the valves spirally twisting to release the c. 5-10 seeds. Seeds 5mm long, 3mm wide, plump, with a strophiole extending from the mid-point to one end, yellow-brown or grey flecked with black.

Distribution: Co. Also N.T., W.A. Locally common on sandy soils in eucalypt woodland.

Notes: The tuberous roots are edible after roasting.

References: 57, 153, 305; as *Vigna canescens*, 328.

Bossiaea

Low or tall-growing woody leafy or leafless shrubs. Leaves, when present, simple or with a single leaflet, alternate. Flowers yellow or yellow and red. Stamens 10, the filaments all joined in a dorsally split tube. Style hairless. Pods several-seeded, with thickened edges, the seeds strophiolate. An endemic Australian genus.

Key to species

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| 1. Plants leafless, stems prominently winged | 2 |
| Plants with leaves, stems rounded or sometimes winged | 4 |
| 2. Stems very broad (20-40mm), prominently toothed (north tropical distribution) | <i>B. bossiaeoides</i> |
| Stems less than 24mm broad, not prominently toothed | 3 |
| 3. Flowers c. 20mm long, distribution N of 18°S (northern distribution) | <i>B. armitii</i> |
| Flowers c. 7mm long, distribution S of 25°S (southern coastal heaths) | <i>B. ensata</i> |