

sepals otherwise joined for $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ their length. Standard usually pink, 3-4mm tall and wide. Wings c. 5mm long from base of calyx, pink to purple, the same length and colour as the keel.

Pod c. 6mm long, 3-3.5mm wide, deeply indented on upper and lower margins between the



Dicerma biarticulatum ssp. *australiense*, Coen-Moreton, 12°47'S, 142°43'E.

two seeds, covered with adpressed hairs. Seeds oval, c. 1.5mm long, 1mm wide.

Key to subspecies

- Stipules 15-33mm long; bracts 10-18mm long; petioles 12-20mm long ssp. *australiense*
 Stipules 5-8mm long; bracts 3-8mm long; petioles 4-5mm long ssp. *biarticulatum*

Distribution: Bk., Co., Mi., N.K., S.K. Also N.T., P.N.G., Indonesia and South-East Asia. A common species on sandy soils in northern eucalypt woodlands, also occurring in strand-line situations and reported as occurring on the Mitchell grass downs.

Notes: Grazing characteristics not recorded. Nodulates, self-pollinating.

References: 3, 27, 50, 208, 240, 285; as *Desmodium biarticulatum*, 17, 132, 181, 256, 262, 306.

Dichrostachys

Woody shrubs with bipinnate leaves. Flowers sessile in pendulous stalked spikes, the basal flowers sterile, the distal flowers fertile. Stamens 10, the anthers with a stalked apical gland. Pods very twisted, indehiscent.

Key to species

- Leaves with 5-10 pairs of pinnae
 Leaves with 1-2 pairs of pinnae

- D. cinerea*
D. spicata

Dichrostachys cinerea

Woody shrub or small tree from 2-8m tall. Young stems densely covered with short spreading hairs, the lateral stems persisting as rigid 5-40mm spines. Stipules 2-3mm long, 1-2mm wide at the base which clasps the petiole, adpressed, narrowing abruptly and tapering to a fine point. Leaves bipinnate, with 5-10 pairs of pinnae. Petiole 8-20mm long, primary rachis 30-40mm long, both covered with minute spreading hairs and with a cylindrical gland between each pair of pinnae. Leaflets in 10-40 opposite pairs on each pinna, 2.5-4.5mm long, 1-1.5mm wide, densely arranged, the sides parallel, rounded at each end, hairless except for a few hairs along the margins.

Inflorescence a pendulous axillary spike 60-90mm long, including the 25-40mm peduncle. Flowers borne singly, dense, the upper (proximal)



Dichrostachys cinerea, Brisbane, 27°31'S, 152°59'E.

half of the inflorescence with sterile pink flowers, becoming white, the lower half (distal) with fertile yellow flowers. Sterile flowers with calyx 0.6-1.2mm long, almost hairless, the 5 sepals similar, joined for most of their length, the teeth

blunt, indistinct. Petals 5, similar, pale pink, 1.5-3mm long. Stamens 10, the filaments free, 10-15mm long, pink fading to white. Anthers lacking. Fertile flowers with yellow petals, the calyx and petals otherwise similar to those of the sterile flowers. Stamens 10, the filaments yellow, free, extending to c. 5mm long, the anthers yellow-orange with a deep red to orange stalked cap at the tip, 0.5mm long.

Fruiting inflorescence almost spherical, falling entire at maturity, the pods strongly curved S-wise, minutely and obscurely hairy, 30-60mm long, c. 15mm wide, strongly flattened, containing 4-6 seeds. Seeds pear-shaped, c. 5mm long, 3mm wide, flattened, brown.

Distribution: Mo. Native to N.T., Indonesia and eastern Africa, occasionally naturalized around Brisbane.

Notes: In Queensland this species is not recorded from pastoral country. In Africa it is regarded as an indicator of overgrazing but pods are eaten by stock. Nodulates.

References: 3, 16, 55, 132, 287.

Dichrostachys spicata

Chinese lantern, prickly bush

Woody shrub or small tree to 4m tall. Young stems densely covered with minute hairs, the

short lateral stems terminating in sharp spines. Stipules 2-3mm long, the broad base clasping the petiole. Leaves bipinnate, with 1-2 pairs or 20-35mm long pinnae. Petiole c. 10mm long, rachis c. 10mm long, a cylindrical gland between the pairs of pinnae. Leaflets 4-7 pairs on each pinna, each leaflet 5-8mm long, 2-4mm wide, the margins more or less parallel and the ends rounded, minutely hairy along the margins, mucronate.

Inflorescence a pendulous axillary spike c. 40mm long, including the c. 20mm peduncle. Basal flowers rather sparse, sterile, calyx c. 0.5mm long, petals c. 1.5mm long, filaments of stamens pink, showy. Fertile flowers densely arranged at tip of spike with showy yellow filaments and anthers, the calyx and corolla similar to those of the sterile flowers.

Pod c. 40mm long, 7mm wide, sparsely hairy, curved or twisted, brown when ripe, containing 6-9 seeds. Seeds oval, c. 4.5mm long, 3mm wide, dark brown.

Distribution: Bk. Also N.T., W.A.

Notes: An endemic Australian species, not common in Queensland. In the Kimberleys (W.A.) cattle readily eat the dry pods and leaves. Nodulates.

References: 28, 43, 257; as *D. muelleri*, 132.

Dillwynia

Woody shrubs with narrow simple alternate upward-rolled leaves. Flowers yellow or orange, the standard about twice as wide as tall. Stamens 10, the filaments free. Pods plump, containing one or two strophiolate seeds. An endemic Australian genus.

Key to species

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|---|------------------------|
| 1. Calyx abruptly narrowing at base; pod surrounded by persistent remains of petals; leaves sharp-pointed | <i>D. juniperina</i> |
| Calyx tapering towards the base; petals deciduous | 2 |
| 2. Flowers terminal or in upper leaf axils, solitary or in racemes | 3 |
| Flowers in pairs in leaf axils | 4 |
| 3. Leaves conspicuously spirally twisted | <i>D. retorta</i> |
| Leaves straight, rarely slightly twisted | <i>D. glaberrima</i> |
| 4. Stems with long thin hairs or almost hairless; leaves often spirally twisted | <i>D. floribunda</i> |
| Young stems densely covered with silky white hairs; leaves not spirally twisted | var. <i>floribunda</i> |
| | <i>D. sericea</i> |