

hairy on the upper surface, more densely covered with minute adpressed hairs on the lower surface.

Inflorescence an axillary 1-10 flowered raceme 50-150mm long, including the peduncle. Flowers borne in groups of 2-3 within the axils of c. 1mm bracts, each on a 1.5-2mm pedicel which bears a pair of 1mm bracteoles at the tip. Calyx 6-9mm long, minutely hairy, the two dorsal sepals totally fused, the sepals otherwise joined for less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  their length, the teeth narrow and pointed. Standard pink, 7-8mm tall, c. 7mm wide, indented at the tip. Wings pink, c. 10mm long from base of calyx, about the same length as the pink keel.

Pod 20-60mm long, 5-7mm wide, covered with adpressed hairs, rather flattened, dark brown

when ripe, containing 6-10 seeds. Seeds 4-5mm long, c. 3mm wide, kidney-shaped, indistinctly blotched orange on yellow-orange.

*Distribution:* Bk., Bur., Co., D.D., Lei., Mi., Mo., N.K., P.C., S.K. Also N.T., W.A., N.S.W., tropical Africa, southern Asia, South-East Asia, Indonesia and P.N.G.

*Notes:* An extremely variable species. One of the more common herbaceous legumes of eastern eucalypt woodlands. Grazing characteristics not recorded, but probably contributes to animal production. Self-pollinating, nodulates.

*References:* 3, 16, 17, 26, 91, 131, 132, 141, 154, 172, 277, 287, 306, 333.

## *Gastrolobium*

Perennial shrub with simple, opposite or alternate leaves. Flowers large, showy, red. Stamens 10, the filaments free to the base. Style hairless. Pods with 1 or 2 strophiolate seeds. The genus is endemic to Australia.

### *Gastrolobium grandiflorum*

Heart-leaf poison, wallflower poison

Perennial shrub to c. 2m tall, with sparingly branched erect stems from an underground tuber. Young stems silky hairy. Stipules c. 5mm long, narrow and hair-like, persistent. Leaves simple, opposite below, the upper alternate, dull green or silver-grey. Petiole 3-9mm long; stipels lacking. Leaf blade 25-75mm long, 10-27mm wide, broadest about the mid-point, the margins curving to the broadly rounded often indented tip and curving or tapering to the angled base, silky hairy when young, becoming hairless with age.

Inflorescence a showy terminal or axillary raceme 30-100mm long, including the short peduncle, the flowers borne within the axils of deciduous bracts, each on a c. 6mm pedicel. Calyx 8-11mm long, densely covered with adpressed or spreading hairs, the two dorsal sepals fused almost to the tip, the teeth rounded, the other 3 sepals fused for c.  $\frac{3}{4}$  their length, the teeth triangular, c. 3mm long. Standard c. 15mm tall, 16-20mm wide, orange-red with darker red venation. Wings c. 20mm long from base of calyx, dark red, slightly longer than the dark red keel.

Pod c. 20mm long, including the 7-8mm stalk above the calyx, c. 6mm wide, the tip extended into a fine point, rounded in section, covered



*Gastrolobium grandiflorum*, Einasleigh, 18°37'S, 143°49'E.

with 2mm long spreading hairs, brown when ripe, containing 1 or 2 seeds. Seeds c. 4.5mm long, 2.5mm wide, kidney-shaped, plump, dark brown, with a prominent strophiole.

*Distribution:* Bk., Co., G.N., Lei., Mi., N.K., S.K. Also N.T., W.A. Locally common on yellow sandy soils in infertile "desert" country in the north of the state.

*Notes:* A very toxic species to livestock. The toxic principle is monofluoroacetic acid. Plants should be grubbed out or poisoned; seedlings may be eliminated with heavy grazing.

*References:* 8, 17, 18, 27, 63, 125, 130, 132, 147, 148, 172, 256, 277, 332.