

Inflorescence a dense axillary or terminal 2- c. 10 flowered raceme 10-50mm long including the short peduncle. Flowers borne singly within the axils of c. 2mm narrow, deciduous bracts, each on a c. 3mm pedicel which bears bracteoles well below the calyx. Calyx c. 8mm long, covered with rust-coloured hairs, the sepals similarly joined for c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  their length. Standard orange, flushed with red at either side towards the base, c. 8mm tall, 13mm wide, slightly indented at the tip. Wings and keel orange, both c. 12mm long from base of calyx.



*Oxylobium scandens*, Cult., horticultural.

Pod c. 10mm long, 5mm wide, plump, prominently beaked, not stalked above the calyx, black when ripe, containing 10 or more seeds. Seeds c. 2mm long, 1mm wide, plump, almost kidney-shaped, grey-brown marked with black, very shiny.

**Distribution:** Mo., W.B. Also N.S.W. A locally abundant shrub occurring in eucalypt forests on sandy near-coastal soils, and sandy wallum flats.

**Notes:** Of no grazing significance. A showy species of potential horticultural interest on sandy soils.

**References:** 23, 26, 154, 195, 287, 298; as *O. ellipticum*, in part, 17, 318.

### *Oxylobium scandens*

Netted shaggy pea

Prostrate shrub with stems to 0.6m long. Stems densely covered with minute spreading hairs. Stipules narrow and pointed, 1.5-2.5mm long. Leaves usually opposite. Petiole 1-3mm long. Leaf blades 10-60mm long, 7-22mm wide, broadest about the mid-point, the margins often indistinctly lobed, curving towards the more or less rounded or angled tip and base, leathery, the upper surface very dark green, often shiny,

hairless or minutely hairy, the lower surface grey-green and dull, minutely hairy.

Inflorescence a few-flowered terminal or axillary raceme 20-100mm long, including the 5-40mm peduncle. Flowers borne singly each on a 6-7mm pedicel which bears a pair of minute bracteoles well below the calyx, within the axil of a 1-2mm bract. Calyx c. 5mm long, covered with short adpressed hairs, the two dorsal sepals joined for c.  $\frac{2}{3}$  their length, the sepals otherwise joined for c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  their length. Standard yellow, red at the base, c. 6mm tall, 9mm wide, indented at the tip. Wings and keel yellow, c. 8mm long from base of calyx.

Pod 10-15mm long, c. 6mm wide, on a short stalk above the calyx, sparsely hairy, dark red-brown to black when ripe, containing 2-4 seeds. Seeds c. 2.5mm long, 1.5mm wide, almost kidney-shaped, reddish black, very shiny.

**Distribution:** Mo., W.B. Also N.S.W. A species of open forests on infertile sandy soils.

**Notes:** Not toxic, of no grazing significance. Occasionally grown as a horticultural plant. Nodulates, cross-pollinating.

**References:** 17, 26, 195, 287, 298, 316.

### *Pachyrhizus*

Robust perennial with tuberous roots and pinnate leaves with three leaflets. Stipels present. Flowers large, blue to purple. Stamens 10, 9 filaments joined in a dorsally split tube, 1 free. Style bearded, flattened, broadening towards the tip, with a lateral stigma. Pods 75-140mm long, 4-12 seeded.

### *Pachyrhizus erosus*

Yam bean

Perennial with twining or trailing stems to 6m

long from a large, 4-lobed root tuber. Stem covered with long, downward-pointing hairs. Stipules 5-10mm long, narrow and pointed, persistent. Petiole 30-180mm long, rachis 20-

40mm long; stipels 2-5mm long. Leaflets 30-180mm long, 40-200mm wide, angular or coarsely toothed or shallowly lobed along the upper margin, the tip drawn out into a short point, sparsely hairy on both surfaces.

Inflorescence an axillary raceme 50-700mm long, including the 0-200mm peduncle. Flowers borne in clusters of 1-5 within the axils of c. 3mm bracts, each on a c. 6mm pedicel which has a pair of very deciduous bracteoles at the tip. Calyx 6-10mm long, densely covered with adpressed brown hairs, the two upper sepals joined almost to the tip, the sepals otherwise joined for c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  their length. Standard light blue to pale purple or white, with a green area at the base, c. 13mm tall, 12mm wide. Wings c. 18mm long from base of calyx.

Pod 75-140mm long, 11-18mm wide, slightly

indented along upper and lower margins, densely covered with adpressed hairs, straight or curved, containing 4-12 seeds. Seeds 8-10mm long, 7-10mm wide, rather flattened, oval to roundish, pale brown to purplish black.

*Distribution:* Co. Occasionally found naturalized in wetter districts of north Queensland. Native of tropical America, also introduced to Indonesia and P.N.G.

*Notes:* Unpalatable to stock. Widely cultivated in the wet tropics for its edible tubers and pods, although the tubers may sometimes be toxic. Seeds have been used as a fish-poison; they contain the glucoside pachyrrhizid, pachyrrhizine, various saponins and rotenone. Nodulates.

*References:* 3, 16, 121, 306, 309.

## *Paratephrosia*

Grey woody shrub, the leaves pinnate, with three leaflets, or with a single leaflet, lacking stipels. Flowers orange, small, in dense racemes. Stamens 10, 9 filaments joined in a dorsally split tube, the other free except about the middle. Style flattened, hairless. Pod single-seeded.

An endemic monospecific Australian genus closely related to the more common and widespread *Tephrosia*.

### *Paratephrosia lanata*

Woody perennial grey shrub to 2m tall. Young stems densely covered with short silky hairs. Stipules 2-4mm long, adpressed, persistent. Leaves usually with three leaflets, occasionally with one. Petiole 3-10mm, rachis 2-5mm long. Leaflets grey, 12-40mm long, 4-22mm wide, broadest at or above the mid-point, the margins curving to the broadly angled or rounded mucronate tip and more or less tapering to the base, densely covered with silky silvery hairs on both surfaces.

Inflorescence a dense sometimes leafy raceme up to 80mm long including the short peduncle, borne terminally or in upper leaf axils, or flowers single in upper leaf axils. Calyx 5-7mm long, hairy, the sepals joined only towards the base, the teeth narrow and finely pointed, densely covered with silky spreading hairs. Standard c. 4mm tall, 6mm wide, orange on the front, yellow and hairy on the back. Wings pink-tipped.

Pod 8-12mm long, c. 5mm wide, flattened,



*Paratephrosia lanata*, Mt Isa, 20°43'S, 139°30'E.

grey when ripe, containing a single seed, falling entire.

*Distribution:* Bk. Also N.T., W.A. Quartzite ridges and arid sandy soils in the far north-west.

*Notes:* Of no grazing significance.

*Reference:* 172.