

P. vulgaris (navy bean, french bean) is an important crop which may be distinguished by its 5-6mm long bracteoles, which exceed the calyx. It is not known to be naturalized but may

occasionally be found on rubbish tips and perhaps along roadsides.

References: 3, 16, 121, 136, 141, 287, 306.

Phylacium

Herbaceous twining perennial with pinnate leaves with three leaflets. Stipels present. Inflorescence largely enclosed within boat-shaped papery bracts. Stamens 10, 9 filaments joined in a dorsally split tube, the other loosely joined. Style hairless in the upper part. Pod single-seeded.

Phylacium bracteosum

Perennial, with slender, twining, herbaceous stems to 5m long. Young stems sparsely covered with downward-pointing hairs. Stipules narrow and pointed, c. 4mm long, adpressed, persistent. Petiole 20-60mm long, rachis 3-13mm long; stipels 0.5-1.5mm long. Leaflets thin, 20-100mm long, 12-45mm wide, broadest at about the mid-point, the margins curving to the rounded base and rounded, slightly indented tip, hairless on the upper surface and sparsely covered with adpressed hairs on the lower surface.

Inflorescence a cluster of 2-10 axillary 20-50mm racemes, each raceme partly enclosed by 1-3 boat-shaped, 20-46mm long, 20-42mm wide, papery bracts. Flowers borne on 4-5mm pedicels which bear a pair of c. 1mm bracteoles at the tip. Calyx 3-5mm long, finely hairy, the upper sepals joined to form a lip, the sepals otherwise joined for c. $\frac{3}{4}$ their length. Standard white, pale pink to pale bluish at the base, c. 5mm tall, 5mm wide, slightly indented at the tip. Wings c. 9mm long from base of calyx, longer than the purple-tipped keel.

Pod 7-10mm long, including the 2-3mm beak,



Phylacium bracteosum, Claudie River, 12°45'S, 143°15'E, Cult.

5-6mm wide, flattened, the upper margin straight, the lower curved, covered with minute hairs, indehiscent. Seed c. 5mm long, 3.5mm wide, kidney-shaped, flattened, purple-brown.

Distribution: Co. Also South-East Asia, Indonesia and P.N.G. Occurs in northern rainforest margins and regrowth.

Notes: Of no grazing significance.

References: 16, 306, 333.

Phyllodium

Erect shrubs with pinnate leaves with three leaflets. Stipels present. Flowers in clusters within the axils of leaf-like bracts consisting of a pair of small "leaflets". Stamens 10, 9 filaments joined in a dorsally split tube, 1 free. Style hairless. Pod consisting of 2-4 articles, breaking up at maturity.

Key to species

- Pods with 2 articles
- Pods with 3-4 articles

P. pulchellum
Phyllodium sp. Q1

Phyllodium pulchellum

Erect shrub to 2.5m tall, the young stems densely covered with short, white hairs. Stipules narrowly triangular, 4-8mm long, persisting but becoming brown and splitting with age. Petiole 6-15mm long, rachis c. 15mm long; stipels 1-2mm long. Leaflets leathery, grey-green, 10-170mm long, 10-70mm wide, the laterals much smaller than the terminal, broadest at, above or below the mid-point, the margins slightly wavy, curving or tapering to the angled tip and curving to the rounded base, more or less densely covered with adpressed white hairs on both surfaces.



Phyllodium pulchellum, Einasleigh, 18°36'S, 144°02'E, Cult.

Inflorescence a terminal or axillary short-peduncled leafy raceme 70-500mm long. Flowers borne in clusters of 3-6 within the axil of a leaf-like bract consisting of 2 rounded 5-20mm mucronate "leaflets", the short petiole extended into a soft bristle. Individual flowers borne on 2-4mm pedicels which bear a pair of deciduous c. 1.5mm bracteoles at the tip. Calyx 4-5mm long, densely covered with adpressed white hairs, the 2 dorsal sepals joined to the tip, the sepals otherwise joined for c. ½ their length, the teeth narrow and pointed. Standard pale yellow, 6-7mm tall, 4-5mm wide. Wings pale yellow, c. 8mm long from base of calyx, narrower and 1mm shorter than the pale yellow keel.

Pod 7-8mm long, 3-4mm wide, flattened, indented on the lower margin, covered with loosely adpressed hairs and with dense spreading hairs along the margins, almost always containing 2 seeds. Seeds c. 4mm long, 2.5mm wide, kidney-shaped, flattened, yellow.

Distribution: Co. Also N.T., South-East Asia, Indonesia and P.N.G.

Notes: Although usually regarded as unpalatable,

the specimen illustrated was heavily grazed when collected as cuttings. Self-pollinating, nodulates.

References: 3, 50, 240, 297; as *Desmodium pulchellum*, 16, 17, 132, 306.

Phyllodium sp. Q1

Erect shrub to c. 1.5m tall, sparingly branched from the base. Young stems angular, covered with adpressed hairs along the ridges. Stipules 2-6mm long, broad-based but narrowing abruptly to a fine point, adpressed, becoming brown but quite persistent. Petioles 15-40mm long, rachis c. 15-35mm long. Stipules narrow, c. 1-2mm long. Leaflets 30-130mm long, 15-65mm wide, the terminal leaflet rather larger than the laterals, broadest about the mid-point, the margins slightly undulating, broadly angled or rounded at the base, the tip broadly angled or shallowly indented, minutely mucronate, minutely hairy along the major veins on both surfaces and between the major veins on the lower surface.

Inflorescence a terminal or axillary raceme up to c. 200mm long, with clusters of flowers subtended by true leaves in the lower part and conspicuous but not very persistent 2-leaflet bracts further up, the terminal clusters sometimes subtended only by stipule-like bracts. Flowers in clusters of c. 8-15, each flower borne on a fine 6-10mm pedicel with a pair of quite persistent narrow bracteoles just below the tip. Calyx 3.5-4.5mm long, covered with loosely adpressed hairs, the two dorsal sepals totally joined, the sepals otherwise joined for a little over ½ their length. Standard white, 8-9mm tall, 5-6mm wide. Wings narrow, flushed with pink, 9-10mm long from base of calyx, 2mm shorter than the white keel.

Pod 15-30mm long, 5-6mm wide, flattened,



Phyllodium sp. Q1, Irvinebank-Petford, 17°25'S, 145°04'E, Cult.

minutely hairy along the upper margin, shallowly indented along the lower margin between the 2-4 articles, reticulately veined, brown when ripe. Seeds 3.5-4mm long, c. 3mm wide, kidney-shaped, flattened, yellowish.

Distribution: Co. Also possibly N.T. In

Queensland known only from around Irvinebank where it grows in shaded situations close to creeks.

Notes: Of no grazing significance. This species has close affinities with the related genus *Desmodium*.

Phyllota

Woody shrub with short alternate simple leaves. Flowers small, yellow. Stamens 10, the filaments mostly joined to the base of the petals. Pod small, 1- or 2-seeded. The genus is endemic to Australia.

Phyllota phyllicoides

Heath phyllota

Woody shrub with erect branches to 1.5m tall. Young stems covered with adpressed or spreading hairs. Stipules minute or absent. Leaves simple, crowded. Petiole minute. Leaf blade 5-20mm long, c. 1mm wide, the margins rolled downwards, almost parallel, sparsely covered on



Phyllota phyllicoides, Brisbane, 27°32'S, 153°04'E.

the upper surface and along the mid-vein on the lower surface with 1mm long hairs or hairless.

Flowers borne singly in upper leaf axils, often forming a terminal head 10-30mm long, each flower on a c. 2mm pedicel, a pair of persistent 4-15mm bracteoles attached to the pedicel just below the base of the calyx. Calyx 4-10mm long, hairless or hairy, the two upper sepals joined for c. $\frac{3}{4}$ their length, the teeth broad, the sepals otherwise joined for about $\frac{1}{2}$ their length, with teeth narrower and pointed. Standard yellow, c. 6mm tall, 6mm wide. Wings yellow, c. 8mm long from base of calyx, 1mm shorter than the greenish yellow keel.

Pod plump, included in the calyx.

Distribution: Bur., Lei., Mo., P.C., W.B. Also N.S.W. A shrub of sandy heaths and eucalypt woodland on sandy infertile soils.

Notes: Of no grazing significance. Worked by honey bees for pollen. Nodulates.

References: 3, 17, 23, 50, 96, 97, 100, 154, 158, 171, 225, 283, 287, 298, 312, 324, 332.

Platylobium

Low shrub with simple opposite leaves. Flowers large, yellow and red. Stamens 10, the filaments all joined in a dorsally split tube. Style hairless. Pods c. 10-seeded, the seeds strophiolate. The genus is endemic to Australia.

Platylobium formosum

Flat pea

Straggling perennial shrub to 1.5m tall. Young stems sparsely hairy. Stipules triangular, 2-3mm long, reflexing and becoming brown, persistent.

Petiole 2-4mm long. Leaf blade rigid, 20-50mm long, 10-40mm wide, dark green and shiny above, grey-green beneath, broadest well below the mid-point, the base rounded, the margins tapering towards the mucronate tip, hairless except for a few hairs along major veins on both surfaces.