

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

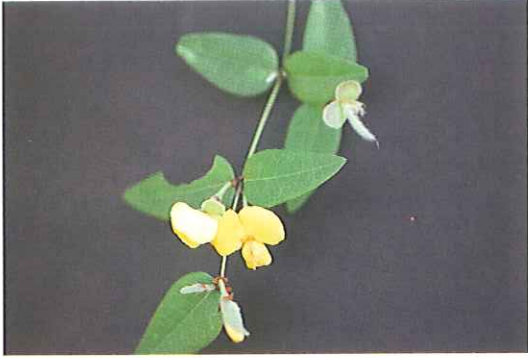
Low shrub with simple opposite leaves. Flowers large, yellow and red. Stamens 10, the filaments all joined in a dorsally split tube. Style hairless. Pods c. 10-seeded, the seeds strophiolate. The genus is endemic to Australia.

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.



Platylobium formosum, Glasshouse Mts, 26°54'S, 152°55'E.

Flowers in clusters of 2-4 at upper nodes and at the ends of short lateral branches, each flower borne on a hairy pedicel 5-10mm long which bears a pair of c. 3mm heart-shaped bracteoles at the tip. Calyx 8-12mm long, softly hairy, the two

dorsal sepals very large, c. 6mm broad, joined for c. $\frac{1}{2}$ their length, the teeth rounded, the other 3 sepals c. $\frac{1}{2}$ as long as the dorsal sepals, pointed. Standard yellow-orange, red towards the base, 11-17mm tall, 17-27mm wide, markedly indented at the tip. Wings yellow-orange, c. 15mm long from base of calyx, the same length as the yellow keel.

Pods 20-40mm long, including the c. 5mm stalk above the calyx, c. 15mm wide, flat, very hairy when young, narrowly ridged towards the upper margin, dark brown when ripe, containing c. 8 seeds.

Distribution: Mo., W.B. Also N.S.W., Vic., Tas. Sandy or rocky hillsides in the south-east.

Notes: Of no grazing significance. Nodulates.

References: 3, 17, 23, 26, 50, 154, 199, 287, 313, 337.

Prosopis

Trees or shrubs with bipinnate leaves. Flowers small, in dense axillary racemes. Stamens 10, the filaments free. Pods thick, many-seeded.

All *Prosopis* species in Queensland are believed to be of North or South American origin. The tree species *P. glandulosa* is naturalized in parts of D.D. and Bur. and *P. limensis* in Bk., D.D., G.N., Mi., N.K. and Wa.

Prosopis flexuosa

Woody spiny shrub branching largely from the base, up to 5m tall, 8m wide. Young stems covered with minute spreading hairs. Stipules c. 2mm long, narrow. Leaves pinnate, with paired 8-35mm straight spines in the axils and a single pair of 20-60mm long pinnae, each bearing 9-18 pairs of opposite leaflets. Petiole 3-40mm long.



Prosopis flexuosa, Quilpie-Adavale, 26°31'S, 144°18'E.

Leaflets 3-10mm long, 1-2.5mm wide, the margins parallel, rounded at each end, covered with minute spreading hairs on both surfaces.

Inflorescence a dense cream-coloured axillary raceme c. 60mm long including the short peduncle, 5-10mm wide. Flowers borne on c. 0.2mm pedicels. Calyx c. 1mm long, covered with spreading hairs, the teeth indistinct. Petals c. 3mm long.

Pod 100-140mm long, 7-9mm wide, straight or more or less irregularly curved, flat, minutely and indistinctly hairy, grey-green when ripe, containing c. 18 seeds.

Distribution: Wa. In Queensland known only from around Quilpie.

Notes: Of no grazing significance. Self-incompatible. *P. limensis* is a significant weed species in north-west Queensland. It is distinguished from *P. flexuosa* by its 2-5 pairs of pinnae. Most species of *Prosopis* nodulate.

References: 3, 174, 248.