

indehiscent articles. Seeds c. 1mm long and wide, almost circular, plump, yellow to reddish brown.

Distribution: Co., Mo., N.K., P.C., W.B. Also southern Asia, South-East Asia, Indonesia and P.N.G.

Sophora

Woody shrubs or small trees, the leaves pinnate, with a terminal leaflet, lacking stipels. Flowers yellow, large and showy, lacking bracteoles. Stamens 10, the filaments free or joined at the base. Pod very constricted between the seeds, giving the appearance of a string of beads.

Key to species

- Leaves with less than 20 leaflets; leaflets 12-30mm broad (coastal)
- Leaves with more than 20 leaflets; leaflets usually less than 10mm broad (inland)

S. tomentosa

S. fraseri

Sophora fraseri

Sparsely branched woody shrub to 2m tall. Young stems densely covered with short spreading hairs. Stipules c. 2mm long, deciduous. Leaves with 21-39 opposite or slightly alternating leaflets. Petiole 10-20mm long, rachis 50-150mm long. Leaflets borne on c. 1mm petiolules, 4-25mm long, usually 2-8mm wide, broadest about the mid-point, the margins curving to the rounded base and tip, covered with short spreading hairs on both surfaces.

Inflorescence a terminal raceme 50-100mm long including the 10-60mm peduncle. Flowers crowded, borne singly within the axils of c. 2mm deciduous bracts, each on a 5-10mm pedicel. Calyx c. 4mm long, densely covered with short hairs, the teeth indistinct, c. 0.5mm long. Standard yellow, c. 10mm tall and wide. Wings and keel yellow, c. 12mm long from base of calyx.

Pod 50-120mm long, c. 8mm wide, deeply constricted to 2-4mm wide necks between the 2-5 seeds. Seeds c. 6mm long, oval, plump.

Distribution: Bur., D.D., Mo. Also N.S.W. An endemic Australian species of subcoastal ranges in the south-east.

Notes: Of no agricultural significance.

References: 17, 26, 287, 298.

Sophora tomentosa

Silver bush

Tall shrub or small tree. Young stems densely

Notes: A plant which prefers wet or swampy soil and which may occur in grazed pasture; in Indonesia reported to be palatable to cattle and also used as a pot herb. Nodulates.

References: 3, 16, 23, 154, 227, 287, 306, 314.



Sophora tomentosa, Cape Tribulation, 16°05'S, 145°28'E.

covered with short white or grey felt-like hairs. Stipules small or perhaps lacking. Leaves pinnate, usually with 9-19 leaflets, opposite or slightly alternating. Petiole 20-40mm long, rachis 80-220mm long, lacking stipels. Leaflets borne on 2-5mm petiolules, grey, 15-40mm long, 12-30mm wide, broadest about the mid-point, the margins curving to the rounded tip and base, usually densely covered with woolly felt-like hairs on both surfaces.

Inflorescence an erect terminal raceme up to 250mm or more long. Flowers crowded, borne singly within the axils of c. 3mm deciduous bracts, each on a 5-10mm pedicel which lacks bracteoles. Calyx broad, 6-10mm long, densely hairy, the teeth very short, barely noticeable. Standard yellow c. 15mm tall and wide, spreading or reflexed. Wings and keel 12-16mm long, pale yellow.

Pod pendulous, 60-200mm long, 6-10mm wide, deeply constricted to 2-3mm wide necks between

the 2-10 seeds. Seeds globular, 6-9mm long, 5-7mm wide and thick, brown.

Distribution: Co., Mo., N.K., P.C., S.K., W.B. Also N.S.W. and N.T. A strand-line species. Widespread on tropical coasts from East Africa to China, Australia and Polynesia.

Notes: Of no grazing significance. Roots and seeds have been used for medicinal purposes. Nodulates.

References: 3, 16, 17, 26, 106, 107, 108, 139, 141, 161, 287, 298, 306, 309, 332.

Sphaerolobium

Erect almost leafless shrub with small orange and red flowers. Stamens 10, the filaments free. Style with a narrow membrane below the stigma. Pods almost globular, containing 2 seeds. The genus is endemic to Australia.

Sphaerolobium vimineum

Erect rush-like plant to 0.7m tall. Stems sparingly branched, wiry, hairless, leafless or with a few leaves less than 5mm long.

Inflorescence a lateral or terminal raceme 20-200mm long. Flowers borne in clusters of 2-3 within the axils of 1-2mm scale-like bracts, each



Sphaerolobium vimineum, Girraween National Park, 28°49'S, 151°57'E.

flower on a c. 1mm pedicel which bears a pair of broad very deciduous 1.5mm bracteoles beneath the calyx. Calyx 2-4mm long, hairless, dark-coloured, the dorsal sepals joined for most of their length, the teeth quadrant-shaped, the sepals otherwise joined for less than ½ their length, the teeth narrowly pointed. Standard c. 4mm tall, 5mm wide, yellow-orange towards the margin grading to red, yellow-orange at the centre, largely red on the back. Wings c. 5mm long from base of calyx, yellow, red along the lower margin, the same length as the yellow, red-tipped keel.

Pod almost globular, c. 3mm diameter on a minute stalk above the calyx, containing 2 seeds.

Distribution: D.D., Mo., W.B. Also W.A., S.A. Vic., Tas., N.S.W. Not common; found in moist or swampy conditions in the south-east.

Notes: Of no grazing significance.

References: 17, 23, 26, 154, 287, 298.

Stylosanthes

Herbs or shrubs with pinnate leaves with three leaflets, lacking stipels. Flowers small, yellow, borne in dense terminal or axillary heads, each flower borne in the axil of a 2-3 toothed or entire primary bract (the lowermost flower in the axil of an ordinary leaf), each flower also with an entire or toothed membranous secondary bract and 1-2 membranous inner bracteoles, and in some species also a narrow feathery axis rudiment. Stamens 10, the filaments all joined, 5 longer anthers alternating with 5 shorter anthers. Pod short, flattened, with a beak, 1- or 2-jointed.

Key to species

1. Beak of pod 0.5mm long or less (perennial)
Beak more than 0.5mm long

S. guianensis
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