

Stipules 4-8mm long, broad near the base but narrowing abruptly to a fine point, persistent, spreading with maturity. Upper leaves with 3-9 leaflets, the lower leaves with fewer leaflets, these shorter and broader. Petiole 15-40mm long, rachis 4-45mm long; stipels 1-4mm long. Leaflets leathery, dark green, often with a greyish green area close to the mid-rib, those on upper leaves 30-110mm long, 8-20mm wide, broadest close to the rounded, often slightly indented base, the margins curving or tapering to the bluntly angled minutely mucronate tip, hairless and shiny on the upper surface, the lower surface usually with short erect hooked hairs along the reticulate veins.

Inflorescence a narrow terminal or axillary, occasionally branched raceme 50-300mm long including the 10-100mm peduncle, the axis densely covered with short, spreading hooked hairs. Flowers crowded, borne in pairs within the axils of broad 4-6mm very deciduous bracts, each on a 4-9mm pedicel which bends inwards with

maturity. Calyx 3-4mm long, the sepals joined for less than $\frac{1}{2}$ their length, the teeth very narrow, covered with long tubercle-based spreading hairs. Corolla pink to purple, the standard c. 8mm tall and wide, with two "eyes" at the base. Wings and keel c. 7mm long from base of calyx.

Pod consisting of 3-6 1-seeded articles folded zig-zag fashion, shiny, hairless, each article 2.5-3mm long and wide, greyish white. Seeds oval, c. 2.5mm long, 1.5mm wide, flattened, heavily mottled red-brown on yellow-brown.

Distribution: Bur., Co., Mo., N.K., P.C. Also tropical Africa, southern Asia, South-East Asia, Indonesia and P.N.G. Widespread in northern eucalypt woodlands. Sandy soils.

Notes: Rarely a major component of the herbaceous vegetation. Not noted as being palatable to stock. Self-pollinating, nodulates.

References: 16, 17, 141, 227, 277, 285, 287, 306.

Vandasina

Prostrate or twining perennial vine, the leaves pinnate, with three leaflets and prominent stipels. Flowers purple, in long, showy racemes, the bracteoles minute or absent. Stamens 10, 9 filaments joined in a dorsally split tube, 1 free. Style hairless. Pods very inflated, containing 8-10 seeds.

Vandasina retusa

Perennial with twining or prostrate stems to 5m or more long. Young stems sparsely covered with adpressed hairs, becoming hairless. Stipules 3-5mm long, somewhat clasping at the base, broadly triangular, persistent. Petioles 40-140mm long, rachis 5-20mm long. Stipels 2-3mm long, heart-shaped. Leaflets 30-140mm long, 30-125mm wide, broadest towards the tip which is broadly but shallowly indented and prominently mucronate, the margins curving to the rounded base, hairless or sparsely and minutely hairy on the upper surface, covered with minute adpressed hairs on the lower surface.

Inflorescence an axillary, terminal or leaf-opposed raceme, sometimes sparingly branched, 150-500mm long including the 20-100mm peduncle. Flowers borne in clusters of 2-5 within the axils of deciduous c. 3mm bracts, successive flowers being borne from the same node, leaving a 3-6mm spur if pods are not set, each flower on



Vandasina retusa, Cooktown, 15°15'S, 145°13'E.

a 2-4mm pedicel which often bears a pair of minute bracteoles at the tip. Calyx 3-4mm long, densely covered with short loosely adpressed hairs, bell-shaped, the upper two teeth joined, the other three teeth broadly triangular and short. Standard purple with a green centre, c. 7-8mm tall, 10mm wide. Wings purple, c. 8mm long

from base of calyx, exceeding the purple-tipped keel. (White-flowered forms have also been reported but are rare.)

Pod 60-80mm long, 16-25mm wide, greatly inflated, densely covered with short spreading white or brown-tipped hairs, dark brown or black when ripe, containing 8-10 seeds. Seeds c. 7mm long, 4.5mm wide, 3mm thick, more or less oval, blackish brown, with a prominent aril around the point of attachment.

Distribution: Co. Also P.N.G. A monotypic genus occurring in open forest and rainforest margins in eastern Cape York.

Notes: Roots were roasted and eaten by Aborigines. A species of no grazing significance.

References: 266; as *Hardenbergia retusa*, 17, 70, 99, 224, 262; as *Vandesia retusa*, 255; as *Vandasia retusa*, 306.

Vicia

Soft herbs with pinnate leaves, the rachis ending in a usually branched tendril, lacking stipels. Flowers purple or bluish white, small to medium-sized, single in leaf axils or in axillary racemes, lacking bracteoles. Stamens 10, 9 filaments joined in a dorsally split tube, 1 free or more or less joined. Style with a few hairs. Pod flattened, 2-several seeded.

Key to species

1. Peduncles less than 15mm long or absent, shorter than the flowers
Peduncles more than 10mm long, longer than the flowers
2. Flowers 2-8mm long; pods 2-5mm wide
Flowers 10-15mm long; pods 6-9mm wide
3. Flowers 2-4mm long; pods 2-seeded
Flowers 5-8mm long; pods 4-seeded
4. Stipules deeply divided into 2 parts
Stipules entire or with a short tooth close to the base

V. sativa var. *angustifolia*
2

3
4

V. hirsuta
V. tetrasperma

V. monantha
V. villosa

Vicia hirsuta

Hairy vetch

Annual with slender stems climbing to c. 0.8m. Stems angular, hairless or almost hairless. Stipules 3-4mm long, entire or with 2-4 teeth, hairless or with a few hairs, persistent. Leaves with 5-10 pairs of opposite or somewhat alternating leaflets. Petioles 0-2mm long, rachis 15-65mm long to the terminal leaflet pair, thereafter extended into a 10-30mm branched tendril. Leaflets 5-15mm long, 1-3mm wide, broadest about the mid-point, the tip usually square or broadly rounded, mucronate, hairless except for a few hairs along the mid-rib on the underside.

Inflorescence an axillary raceme 20-60mm long, including the 10-40mm peduncle. Flowers 2-6, clustered towards the tip of the inflorescence. Calyx 2.5-3mm long, covered with minute loosely adpressed hairs, the five teeth similar, narrow and finely pointed, more or less equalling the tube. Corolla 2-4mm long, the standard white, c.



Vicia hirsuta, Somerset Dam, 27°05'S, 152°33'E.

3mm tall, 2.5mm wide, the wings c. 4mm long from base of calyx, longer than the purple-tipped keel.

Pod 6-10mm long, 2-4mm wide, plump, usually covered with spreading hairs, brown or black when ripe, containing 2 seeds. Seeds almost spherical, c. 2mm in diameter, dark reddish purple, dull.