



ETYMOLOGY

History of words

(hard-en-BER-jee-a) After Countess von Hardenberg sister of Baron von Huegel or bergia = P.J. Bergius 1730-1790 Swedish Botanist; The species violacea = violet flowers

LIFEFORM

Creeper 2 m long

STATUS

Widespread Qld, NSW, Vic, SA: Uncommon at each site

HABITAT

Open forest, rainforest margins

TOLERANCES

Well drained to Poorly drained soil

LEAVES

Alternate, 12 x 5 cm, lanceolate eucalypt-like single with cordate (heart-shaped) at the base leathery dark green with prominent veins

FLOWERS

Pea-shaped, 7-10 mm, purple petals, green central eye on long racemes or spreading clusters

Flowering Times: June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov

FRUIT

Pods, 2-4 cm, flat linear, leathery, dark brown to blackish

4-5 x 2 mm reniform (kidney shaped) pale brown seeds, 6-8 seeds per pod;

Seed weight 22 mg hard-coated seeds ant-adapted dispersal soil-stored seedbank

Fruiting Times: Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb

ROOTS

Root lesion: Nematodes

STEM

Twinner with long wiry stems; branches twist around the stems of other plants

ETHNOBOTANY

Interrelations between people and plants.

Boiled leaves make a slightly sweet tea.

False Sarsaparilla because the plant was mistaken for Smilax glycyphylla (Native Sarsaparilla)

Ornamental potential usage in landscaping

Flowers are dye source give grey-blue to wool

PESTS

Powdery Mildew, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*

BIRD

Eastern Spinebill, Double-eyed Fig-parrot

BUTTERFLY

Zizina labradus (Common Grass-blue)

BEE

Megachile sp (Leafcutter Bee) use leaf sections for nesting

MOTH

Teia anartoides, *Cydia zapyrana*, *Cryptoptila immersana* (ivy leafroller) *Ectropis excursara*, *Heliothis punctifera*, *Teia anartoides*

INDIGENOUS USE

Roots and underground stems roasted used as food.

Leaves cause a colic-like condition in horses

ID FEATURE

Leaves 1-foliolate, flowers in groups of 2 along rachis; calyx teeth 0.8-1.1 mm + Pods 2.5-4 cm

Regrowth (seedlings) from surviving rootstocks recorded <1year after fire