

Acanthaceae
Rostellularia adscendens
Pink Tongues

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ETYMOLOGY

(ros-tell-yoo-LAIR-ee-a) Latin rostellum = small beak diminutive of rostrum snout;
The variety adscendens (ad-SEN-dens) rising upwards, stand erect;

LIFEFORM

Herb 30 cm

STATUS

Common; Recorded @ 216 Locations (Moran, A 2009)

OCCURS

Yourka, Gurulmundi Q, NSW, NT, SA, WA

HABITAT

Monsoon forests, Vine thickets, Grasslands

LEAVES

Opposite, 5-30 x 2-8 mm, oblong to ovate, with large curved cystoliths perpendicular to midrib and often smaller curved cystoliths between;

FLOWERS

Dainty pink with recurved tongue-shaped petals in terminal spikes; bracteoles prominent at base;

FLOWERING TIMES

Jan, Feb, March, April, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec

FRUIT

Capsules, 3-7 mm, green to brown, glabrous with minute hair on apex visible with lens; Cream or brown, 4 seeds, 1 mm dehiscence explosive

FRUITING TIMES

April, May

BARK

Very strong fibres which strips readily from fluted stem;

STEM

Small much branched erect herb covered in short hairs;

ETHNOBOTANY

Leaf (juice) used for ophthalmia; infusion used for asthma, coughs, rheumatism, flatulence;
Leaf decoction for bone diseases and spinal curvature (India);

BUTTERFLY

Junonia orithya albicincta (blue argus)

ABORIGINAL USES

Berries eaten by Aborigines in S. Australia; Inner bark of shrubs of this group is very suitable for string making; Fishing line & fine-meshed nets are made with this fibre;