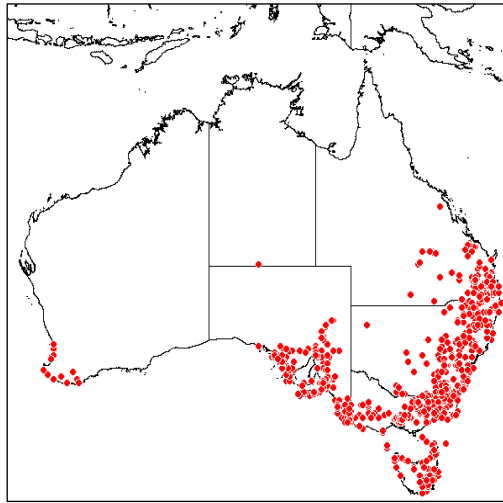


Geraniaceae

Geranium solanderi

Native geranium



Ann Moran
Field Botanist



ETYMOLOGY

(jer-AYN-ee-um) Greek geranos name for crane's bill; The species solanderi = After Sir Joseph Banks assistant: Daniel Carl Solander

LIFEFORM

Herb 10 to 50cm

STATUS

Widespread Common

HABITAT

Woodland, Dry Eucalypt forest

TOLERANCES

Moist, cooler soil, sun to dappled shade. Pot plant or rockery.

LEAVES

Opposite, 1-3 x 2-5 cm, deeply divided into 5-7 lobes each lobe toothed towards the tip;

FLOWERS

Petals 6 mm, pink single or in pairs, 5 petals paler towards base often yellowish veins each on hairy stiff stalks. **Flowering Times:** March, April, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec

FRUIT

Capsules, 12-25 mm tapering beak with curved awns and stiff hairs, composed of 5 hairy seeds; open from base to reveal pitted black seed. **Fruiting Times:** Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec

ROOTS

Coarsely hairy, swollen turnip-like taproot; Roots at stem nodes

STEM

Weak stemmed herb with coarse hairs on stems and leaves take root at nodes

ETHNOBOTANY

Taproot is eaten after roasting; Used for astringent, contains Aluminum sulfate compound; Has high tannin in roots used as a mordant in vegetable dyeing; Raw tuber used for diarrhea, dysentery and vaginal discharge; Considered a good wash for canker sores inflamed mouth or gums and sore throat;

INDIGENOUS USES

Taproot starchy may have been roasted but probably not very palatable;

ID FEATURES

Sepals acute to acuminate; seeds black, with coarse pits; plants hirsute;

COMMENTS

Groundcover grows in shady places; Readily detach from mature inflorescences rendering seed collection an onerous task; propagate from rooting nodes, Widespread species;