



Plants of

‘Grasstrees’:

A photographic guide

Part 4: Forbs

Ross McKenzie

To the natural philosopher there is no natural object unimportant or trifling ... a soap bubble ...an apple ... a pebble ... He walks in the midst of wonders.

John Herschel (1792-1871): *A Preliminary Discourse
on the Study of Natural Philosophy* (1830)

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About the author

Dr Ross A. McKenzie PSM BVSc (Hons) MVSc DVSc (1949 –) is a retired veterinary pathologist and toxicologist who worked in the Queensland Department of Primary Industries during 1973-2009 and taught toxicology to veterinary students at the University of Queensland during 1994-2008. He is also an amateur botanist and photographer. In retirement, Ross wrote and illustrated the definitive 976-page *Australia's Poisonous Plants, Fungi and Cyanobacteria: A Guide to Species of Medical and Veterinary Importance*, published by CSIRO Publishing in 2012, as a plain-language tool for understanding and preventing poisonings by natural toxicants – ‘natural’ does not mean ‘harmless’. His interests include natural history, bush-walking, gardening with Australian native plants and photography of landscape and Australian native flora. As a member of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (now Native Plants Queensland), the Queensland Naturalists’ Club and privately with his botanical artist wife Glenyth, he has travelled widely throughout Australia, visiting all states and crossing the continent by road east-west and return several times.

Notice to Guests

This guide is not comprehensive. It covers the plants identified so far on *Grasstrees*. If you come across a plant that is flowering or fruiting and it is not included in this guide, please notify Trish or John Stadtmiller so that it can be investigated and hopefully included in a later edition. Thank you. I hope you enjoy your stay!

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Forbs

Herbs in the broad botanical sense used in this work, are small leafy plants without a woody stem. **Forbs** are 'broad'-leaved non-grass-like flowering herbs. The grasses and sedges are treated separately from the forbs in Part 6 of this work. Vines (climbers and creepers) are also treated separately in Part 5 of this work. Orchids are also botanically herbs and are also treated separately in Part 7 of this work. Weeds (exotic plants not native to Australia) are covered in Part 8.

The forbs on *Grasstrees* are described here in two groups:

- **Dicotyledons** – flowering plants producing two cotyledons (seed leaves) from their germinating seeds, with net-like (reticulate) arrangement of veins (venation) in their leaves, and with flower sepals and petals not in multiples of three
- **Monocotyledons** – flowering plants producing a single cotyledon from their germinating seeds, with a parallel lengthwise arrangement of veins in their leaves, and with flower sepals and petals arranged in threes



Calotis cuneifolia (wedge-leaved burr-daisy) and *Wahlenbergia stricta* (tall bluebell)

Dicotyledons

Parsnips

***Trachymene incisa* (wild parsnip) [Apiaceae]**

- White flowers in flat-topped flower-heads (umbels) at the top of tall stems
- Leaves deeply lobed in rosette at plant base



Trachymene incisa (wild parsnip): Plants in habitat



Trachymene incisa (wild parsnip): Leaves



Trachymene incisa (wild parsnip): Leaf



Trachymene incisa (wild parsnip): Flower-head (left) and seed-head (right)



Trachymene incisa (wild parsnip): Flower-head, top view



Trachymene incisa (wild parsnip): Root stock

Daisies

***Ammobium alatum* (winged everlasting) [Asteraceae]**

- White 'flowers': white papery bracts around yellow florets
- Flower heads on upright branched winged stems
- Silvery elongated leaves in basal rosette



Ammobium alatum (winged everlasting): Whole plant in habitat



Ammobium alatum (winged everlasting): Flower-heads



Ammobium alatum (winged everlasting): Flower-head

***Calotis cuneifolia* (wedge-leaf burr-daisy) [Asteraceae]**

- White & yellow daisy-type flowers
- Fruits burrs



Calotis cuneifolia (wedge-leaved burr-daisy) : Flowering plant in habitat



Calotis cuneifolia (wedge-leaved burr-daisy) : Open flower-head and flower-head in bud



Calotis cuneifolia (wedge-leaved burr-daisy) :Flower-head

***Chrysocephalum apiculatum* (common everlasting, yellow buttons) [Asteraceae]**

- Yellow daisy flowers in compact heads
- Grey furry leaves



Chrysocephalum apiculatum (common everlasting) : Flowering plants in habitat. Photographed at Sandy Flat February 2013



Chrysocephalum apiculatum (common everlasting) : Flowering plants. Photographed at The Bluff February 2013



Chrysocephalum apiculatum (common everlasting) : Flower-heads. Photographed at The Bluff February 2013

***Xerochrysum bracteatum* (golden everlasting) [Asteraceae]**

- Bright golden paper daisy with large showy flowerheads



Xerochrysum bracteatum (golden everlasting) : Flowering plants cultivated at *Grasstrees*



Xerochrysum bracteatum (golden everlasting) : Flower-heads. Photographed at The Bluff February 2013

Hound's tongue

Cynoglossum australe (hound's tongue) [Boraginaceae]

- Blue flowers



Cynoglossum australe (hound's tongue) :Flowering plant in habitat



Cynoglossum australe (hound's tongue) :Flowering and fruiting stem



Cynoglossum australe (hound's tongue) :Flower

Bell flowers

***Wahlenbergia stricta* (tall bluebell) [Campanulaceae]**

- Blue bell-like flowers on tall thin stem



Wahlenbergia stricta (tall bluebell) and *Calotis cuneifolia* (wedge-leaved burr-daisy) in habitat



Wahlenbergia stricta (tall bluebell) : Flower

***Isotoma axillaris* (showy isotome, Australian harebell) [Campanulaceae]**

- White flowers
- Leaves deeply divided



Isotoma axillaris (showy isotome): Whole plant in habitat



Isotoma axillaris (showy isotome): Whole plant in habitat



Isotoma axillaris (showy isotome): Whole flowering plant

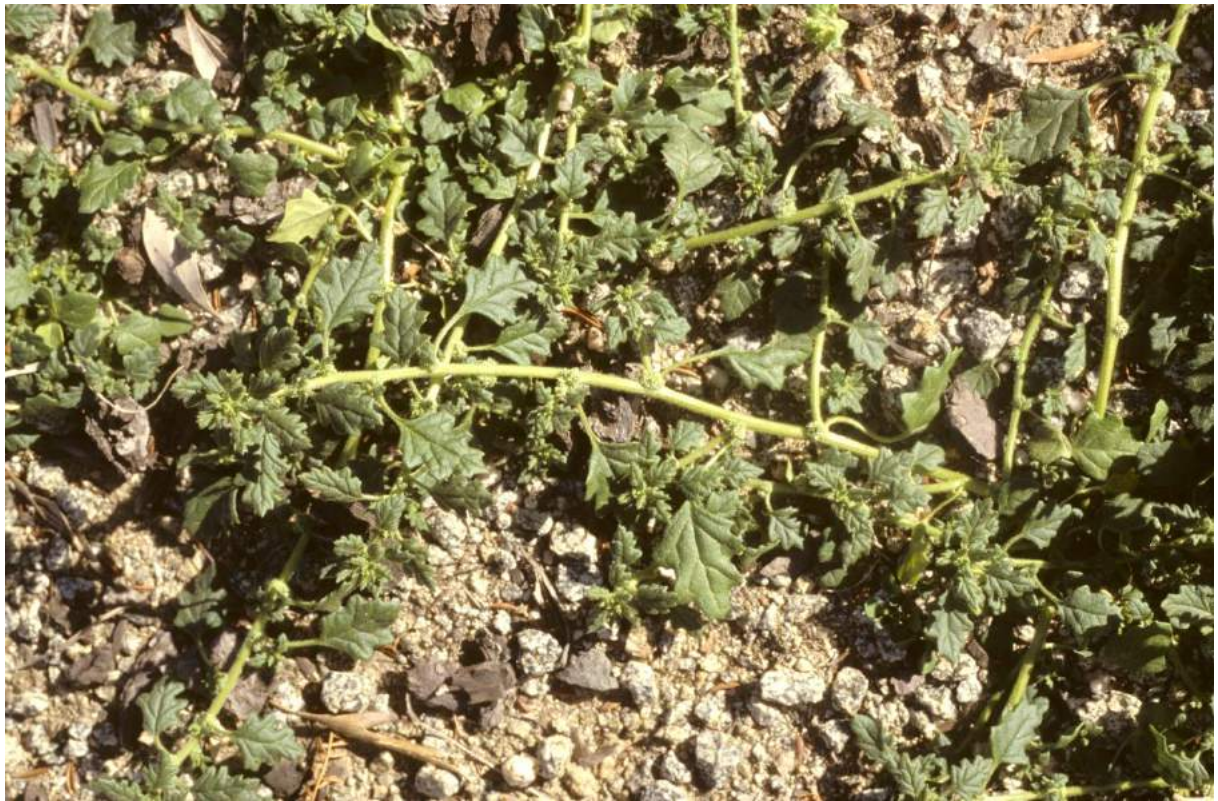


Isotoma axillaris (showy isotome): Flower

Chenopods

Dysphania carinata (green crumbweed, keeled goosefoot) [Chenopodiaceae]

- Low-growing herb



Dysphania carinata (green crumbweed): Flowering plant. Photographed at Emu Creek Q August 2005.

Guinea flowers

Hibbertia linearis (guinea flower) [Dilleniaceae]

- Yellow flowers



Hibbertia linearis (a guinea flower): Flowering plant in habitat

Sundews

Drosera peltata (pale sundew) [Droseraceae]

- Glandular hairs on round leaves
- Pale pink flowers



Drosera peltata (pale sundew): Flowering plants in habitat



Drosera peltata (pale sundew): Flowering plant in habitat



Drosera peltata (pale sundew): Flowering stem

Crane's bills

***Erodium cicutarium* (crane's bill) [Geraniumaceae]**

- Pale blue flowers
- Deeply divided leaves
- Long pointed seed pods



Erodium cicutarium (crane's bill): Flowering plants in habitat



Erodium cicutarium (crane's bill): Flowering twig

Goodenias

Goodenia bellidifolia* subsp. *argentea (daisy goodenia) [Goodeniaceae]

- Yellow 5-petaled flowers



Goodenia bellidifolia subsp. *argentea* (daisy goodenia): Flowering stems in habitat. Photograph by Trisha Stadtmiller.

Mints

***Plectranthus suaveolens* (wild sage) [Lamiaceae]**

- In rock crevices
- Aromatic felty leaves
- Purple tubular flowers



Plectranthus suaveolens (wild sage): Flowering plant in habitat



Plectranthus suaveolens (wild sage): Flowering plant in habitat



Plectranthus suaveolens (wild sage): Flowering plant in habitat



Plectranthus suaveolens (wild sage): Flowering stem



Plectranthus suaveolens (wild sage): Flowers



Plectranthus suaveolens (wild sage): Flower



Plectranthus suaveolens (wild sage): Flowering stem



Plectranthus suaveolens (wild sage): Fruit (seed capsules)



Plectranthus suaveolens (wild sage): Leaves

Loosestrifes

Lythrum salicaria (purple loosestrife) [Lythraceae]

- Freshwater habitat (creek)
- Pink-purple flowers



Lythrum salicaria (purple loosestrife): Flowering plants in habitat . Photographed at Splitters Swamp Creek February 2013



Lythrum salicaria (purple loosestrife): Flowering plants in habitat . Photographed at Splitters Swamp Creek February 2013



Lythrum salicaria (purple loosestrife): Flowering plants in habitat . Photographed at Splitters Swamp Creek February 2013



Lythrum salicaria (purple loosestrife): Flower . Photographed at Splitters Swamp Creek February 2013

Wood-sorrel

Oxalis cornicularis (yellow wood-sorrel) [Oxalidaceae]

- Trifoliate leaves
- Yellow trumpet-shaped flowers



Oxalis corniculata (yellow wood-sorrel): Flowering plant in habitat

Parakeelya

Calandrinia eremaea (parakeelya) [Portulacaceae]

- Succulent
- Pink flowers on long stems



Calandrinia eremaea (parakeelya): Flowering plant in habitat



Calandrinia eremaea (parakeelya): Flowering plant in habitat



Calandrinia eremaea (parakeelya): Flowers

Violets

***Viola betonicifolia* (native violet) [Violaceae]**

- Purple & white flowers
- Clump of lance-head shaped leaves



Viola betonicifolia (a native violet): Flowering plant in habitat



Viola betonicifolia (a native violet): Flower



Viola betonicifolia (a native violet): Flower. Photographed in Brisbane August 2008

Monocotyledons

Lilies

Arthropodium fimbriatum (chocolate lily, vanilla lily) [Anthriscaceae]

- Pink flowers



Arthropodium fimbriatum (chocolate lily, vanilla lily): Flower and bud



Arthropodium fimbriatum (chocolate lily, vanilla lily): Flower underside

***Thysanotus tuberosus* (common fringe lily) [Anthriscaceae]**

- Annual long rounded leaves
- Mauve-blue 3-tepalled (“petalled”) flowers, tepals fringed, in heads of 1-8 flowers
- Tubers on roots



Thysanotus tuberosus (common fringe lily): Flowering plant in habitat. Photographed in Royal National Park February 2013.



Thysanotus tuberosus (common fringe lily): Flowering plant in habitat. Photographed in Royal National Park February 2013.

***Haemodorum planifolium* (blood root) [Haemodoraceae]**

- Clump of long flat leaves
- Red root-stock
- Upright flower spike, black buds



Haemodorum planifolium (blood root): Plant in habitat



Haemodorum planifolium (blood root): Flower-head in bud



Haemodorum planifolium (blood root): Fruit



Haemodorum planifolium (blood root): Plant base freed of soil

***Hypoxis hygrometrica* (golden weather-grass) [Hypoxidaceae]**

- Yellow flowers
- Fleshy grass-like leaves



Hypoxis hygrometrica (golden weather glass): Plant in habitat



Hypoxis hygrometrica (golden weather glass): Flowers

***Stypandra glauca* (nodding blue lily, blind grass) [Phormiaceae]**

- Upright clumped many-stemmed leafy plant
- Leaf-bases overlapping alternately
- Flowers drooping 6-petalled star-shaped blue and yellow in spikes at the ends of shoots
- Stamens yellow, hairy at the base



Stypandra glauca (nodding blue lily, bland grass): Plants in habitat



Stypandra glauca (nodding blue lily, bland grass): Flowering shoot



Stypandra glauca (nodding blue lily, bland grass): Flowering shoot



Stypandra glauca (nodding blue lily, bland grass): Flower



Stypandra glauca (nodding blue lily, bland grass): Flower

Irises

***Patersonia sericea* (native iris, silky purple flag) [Iridaceae]**

- Rosette of long strap-like leaves finely striped
- Hairs on edges of leaf bases
- Blue-violet 3-petaled flowers, yellow anthers



Patersonia sericea (silky purple flag, native iris): Flowering plant in habitat



Patersonia sericea (silky purple flag, native iris): Flowering plant in habitat



Patersonia sericea (silky purple flag, native iris): Flower-head



Patersonia sericea (silky purple flag, native iris): Flower

Mat-rushes

Lomandra longifolia (spiny-headed mat-rush) [Xanthorrhoeaceae]

- Densely clumped leaves
- Spiny flower spike
- Ragged ends on broad flat leaves



Lomandra longifolia (spiny-headed mat-rush): Plants in habitat



Lomandra longifolia (spiny-headed mat-rush): Whole plant



Lomandra longifolia (spiny-headed mat-rush): Leaf tips



Lomandra longifolia (spiny-headed mat-rush): Flower-head. Photographed in cultivation, Brisbane October 2006

***Lomandra multiflora* (many-flowered mat-rush) [Xanthorrhoeaceae]**

- Densely clumped leaves
- Many-branched flower spike



Lomandra multiflora (many-flowered mat-rush): Plant in habitat