

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



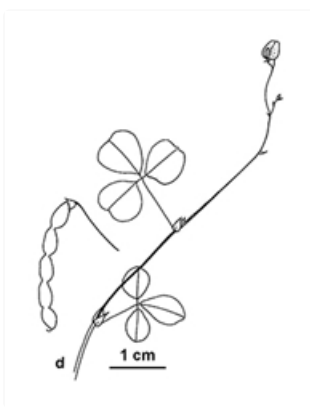
Flower. Photographer Don Wood, Booderee National Park, Jervis Bay Territory



Flowering plant. Photographer Don Wood, Booderee National Park, Jervis Bay Territory



Flowers, pod, and leaf. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, ACT



Line drawing. d. flowering branch; pod. MMbir, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Common name

Gunn's tick-trefoil, Slender tick-trefoil, Southern tick-trefoil

Family

Fabaceae

Where found

Dry **forest**, **woodland**, and moist sites. Widespread. Rare on the Western Slopes.

Notes

Perennial herb, **prostrate**, sprawling or **erect**, stems to 0.5 m long. Stems hairy or hairless, sometimes slightly sticky. Leaves **alternating** along the stems, **compound**, with 3 leaflets, each 0.5-2 cm long, 4-15 mm wide, tips squared off, surfaces somewhat hairless, a few hairs on the **veins** on lower surface. Stalk of the **terminal** leaflet always 1 mm long or less. Flowers pea shaped, with 5 **petals**, 2 joined together to form the **keel**, pink, mauve or white. Petals 3-5 mm long, **standard** petal 3-3.3 mm long, the others longer. Flowers appearing single or paired, in open clusters to 16 cm long. Flowers Summer to Autumn.

When it occurs together with *Desmodium varians* in coastal areas, *Desmodium gunnii* occurs in moister, shady situations.

All species of *Desmodium* in the area have hooked hairs on the transversely jointed pods, which break up on maturity into separate one-seeded sections.

All native plants on unleased land in the ACT are protected.

Pullenia gunnii in PlantNET.

PlantNET description: (as *Pullenia gunnii*): <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Desmodium~gunnii> (accessed 30 April 2021)

This description is partly based on Pedley, L., (1999) *Desmodium* Desv. (Fabaceae) and related genera in Australia: a taxonomic revision. *Austrobaileya* 5(2): 251, map 40

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