

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



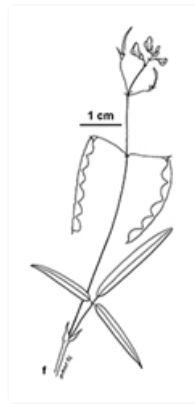
Flowers. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Scottsdale Bush Heritage Reserve near Bredbo



Flowers and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, near Boorowa



Plant with pods. Photographer Don Wood, above Karbah Pool, Murrumbidgee River, ACT



Line drawing. f. flowering branch; pod. M.Mbir, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

## Common name

Slender tick-trefoil

## Family

Fabaceae

## Where found

**Forest, woodland**, and grassy areas. Widespread.

## Notes

**Perennial** herb, **prostrate**, sprawling, or twining, to 0.5m high. Stems hairless to sparsely hairy or slightly sticky. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, **compound**, with 3 leaflets, each 0.5-4 cm long, 5–20 mm wide, hairless to sparsely hairy, tips blunt to pointed. Young leaves often hairy and red brown. Leaflets often of two shapes, the leaflets of the lower leaves broadly oval to round, with blunt tips; leaflets of the upper leaves more or less oblong, usually with pointed tips. Stalk of the **terminal** leaflet 2-4.5 mm long. Flowers 4-6 mm long, pea-shaped, purplish to pink, white or yellowish, with 5 **petals**, 2 joined together to form the **keel**. Flowers in groups of 1-3 in **racemes** to about 25 cm long of 4-60 flowers. Flowers often self-pollinate without opening. Flowers almost all year.

When it occurs together with *Desmodium gunnii* in coastal areas, *Desmodium varians* occurs in drier 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.

Data deficient Vic.

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

---

*Author: Betty Wood.*

*This identification key and fact sheets are available as a free mobile application:*



*Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia (CC BY)*



*Android edition*



*iOS edition*