Dissotis rotundifolia (Sm.) Triana

Family:
Melastomataceae


Common name:
Spanish Shawl; Trailing Tibouchina; Pink Lady

Stem
Decumbent herb rooting at the nodes with the erect branches up to 16 cm tall; stems 4-angled, sparsely hairy; internodes 50-55 mm long.

Leaves
Leaves ovate to ovate-lanceolate, 15-31 x 8-20 mm, margin slightly crenulate-ciliate, surfaces lightly to densely pilos. Petioles 5-12 mm long, upper surface flat, clothed in long simple reddish hairs.

Flowers
Inflorescence a solitary flower or rarely 2-4 -flowered cymes. pedicels 2-5 mm long. Calyx-tube cylindric-campanulate, 5-7 x 3-4 mm, sparsely to densely pilose, the hairs intermixed with linear-subulate caducous appendages 1-2 mm long and setose at the apex; lobes subulate-lanceolate, 5-6 x 1.5 mm, margin ciliate, setose at the apex; intersepalar appendages ligulate, 2-2.5 mm long, setose at the apex. Petals pink to purplish, obovate, 20-28 x 15-20 mm. Stamens 10, unequal; 5 articulated and purple, and 5 yellow. Ovary 8-9 x 8 mm, clothed in stalked (2-2.5 mm long) stellate hairs.

Fruit
Fructiferous receptacle 6-11 x 6-7-5 mm., ovoid to ovoid-ellipsoid. Capsule subequalising the receptacle, setose on the upper part. Seeds cochleate, ridged along the back and with a fringe of long papilae around the hilum.

Seedlings
Features not available.

Distribution and Ecology
An introduced species and occasional escape from cultivation, recorded from CYP, NEQ and NT. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 100 m. Originally from Africa.

Natural History & Notes
Grown as an ornamental but has become naturalised in the NT, CYP and NEQ.

Synonyms
Osbeckia rotundifolia Sm., Cyclopaedia 25: 204(1813), Type: Afzelius s.n.; ; Sierra Leone (BM).

RFK Code
4164