

## *Dissotis rotundifolia* (Sm.) Triana

### Family:

#### Melastomataceae

Triana, J.J. (1872) *Transactions of the Linnean Society of London* 28(1): 58.

### 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 pilose. 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; intersepal 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

Fruiferous receptacle 6-11 x 6-7.5 mm., ovoid to ovoid-ellipsoid. Capsule subequalling the receptacle, setose on the upper part. Seeds cochleate, ridged along the back and with a fringe of long papillae 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



Leaves and Flower. © CSIRO



Leaves, flower and bud. © ATH



Flower. © ATH



Flower showing 10 stamens, 5 of each distinct form. © ATH



Bud and calyx. © ATH



Herbarium specimen. © CSIRO



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