

# Scoparia dulcis L.

## Family:

Plantaginaceae

Linnaeus, C. von (1753) *Species Plantarum* 2: 116. Type: Habitat in Jamaica, Curassao.

## Common name:

Scoparia; Scoparia Weed

## Stem

Usually flowers and fruits as a herb but occasionally grows into a shrub about 1 m tall.

## Leaves

Leaves usually in whorls of three, leaf blades variable, about 1-3 x 0.3-1.5 cm, glandular, particularly on the lower surface.

## Flowers

Calyx lobes about 1 mm long, corolla lobes about 2 mm long. A ring of long hair-like structures present in the same whorl as the stamens. Ovary surrounded by a ring of hairs and seated on a glandular disk. Ovules numerous, attached to a fleshy central placenta.

## Fruit

Seeds small, less than 0.5 mm long, about twice as long as wide.

## Seedlings

Cotyledons about 2 x 1.5 mm. Hypocotyl terete. First pair of leaves with toothed margins, stem 4-angled. At the tenth leaf stage: oil dots just visible with a lens, stem 4-angled or shortly 4-winged. Numerous small hair-like glands present on the stems between the petioles of each leaf pair. Seed germination time 27 to 43 days.

## Distribution and Ecology

An introduced species originally from tropical America, now naturalised in WA, NT, CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as north-eastern New South Wales. Altitudinal range in northern Australia from near sea level to 1000 m. Usually grows as a weed of agricultural land but also found in disturbed areas and along roads in rain forest.

## Synonyms

**Scoparia dulcis var. typica** Domin, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 1151(1928), Type: Diese breitblattrige Varietät ist in Australien vielleicht nur eingeschleppt, so z. B. bei Cairns also Undraut (DOMIN Dec.1909), Goodna, C.T. White. **Scoparia dulcis L. var. dulcis**, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 1151(1928).

## RFK Code

3400



Leaves, flowers and buds. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



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