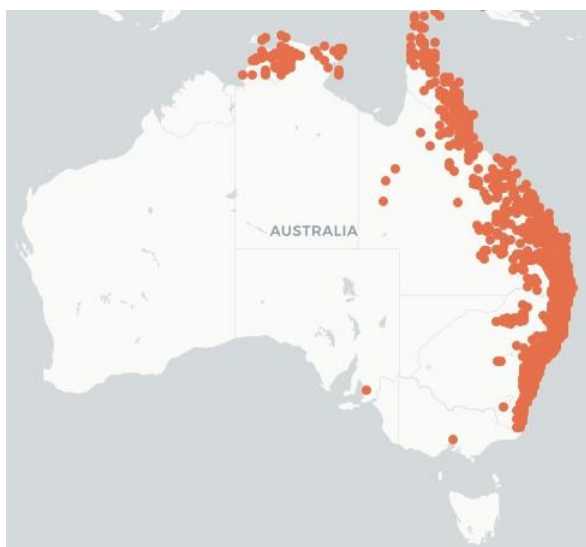


## Acanthaceae

### *Pseuderanthemum variable*

Love flower



Ann Moran  
Field Botanist



#### ETYMOLOGY

(seu-der-ANTH-e-mum) Gk pseudos = false + genus Eranthemum also in Acanthaceae to which there was some resemblance; The species variable referring to colour;

#### LIFEFORM

30cm Herb

#### ORIGIN

Gurulumundi Q, Bega NSW, Vic, Groote Eylandt NT, SA

#### HABITAT

Wet sclerophyll AMVf, LMVf, SEVT

#### LEAVES

Opposite, 1-5 cm, dark green hairy above purplish and dotted with glands below narrow, lanceolate to oval; tip blunt to sharp base rounded or wedge-shaped edges wavy on 5-30 mm petiole;

#### FLOWERS

Tubular, 10-15 mm elongate, white to mauve, sometimes with darker spots on lower lobe; terminal lobes 5-8 mm, lower ones small and often cleistogamous; pedicels 1-8 mm; bracteoles 2-4 mm. Calyx 4-8 mm. **Flowering:** Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April, May

#### FRUIT

Capsules, 1-1.5 cm, narrow, pubescent, glabrous, brown, hairy containing 1-4 seed 3 mm dehiscence explosive; **Fruiting Times:** Sept, Oct, Nov

#### BARK

creeping rhizome, roots tuberous

#### STEM

Perennial herb, 15-30cm, branches hairy; Erect rounded sometimes branching;

#### ETHNOBOTANY

Good rockery plant, attracts butterflies

#### PESTS

Blue banded Bee & Cutting Bee

#### BUTTERFLY

*Doleschallia bisaltide australis* (leafwing), *Junonia orithya albinct*a (blue argus), *Hypolimn*as *alimena* lamina (blue-banded eggfly), *Hypolimn*as *misippus* (danaid eggfly), *Hypolimn*as *bolina nerina* (common eggfly)

#### COMMENTS

World has 60 species; Australia has 3 species;