

Fabaceae

Hovea acutifolia

pointed-leaf hovea, purple pea bush



Ann Moran

Field Botanist



ETYMOLOGY

(HO-vee-a) R. Brown 1812 After Anon Pantaleon Hove 1785-1798 Polish Botanist; The species *acutifolia* (ah-kew-tee-FLO-rus) sharpened pointed referring to pointed leaves tapering at both ends;

LIFEFORM

Shrub 1-3 m x 1 m spread

STATUS

Endemic to SE Australia; Occurs in Moreton and Wide Bay districts from Fraser Island SE Qld to Taree NSW; Longevity 2 years

OCCURS

Beerwah SE Q, Mt Warning NSW

HABITAT

Moist edges open forest

LEAVES

Alternate, 7-8 cm x 8 mm, lanceolate, dark green rusty brown underside; Hairy new growth;

FLOWERS

Pea-shaped, scented purple in clusters of 1-4 flowers; **Flowering Times:** July, Aug, Sept, Oct

FRUIT

Pods, 1.5 cm, swollen short rounded sparsely hairy sessile; **Fruiting Times:** Oct, Nov

STEM

Branches with long dense spreading grey or rusty hairs;

ETHNOBOTANY

Ornamental potential usage in landscaping; Scented purple pea-like flowers only last two weeks. Attracts insects; Flowers food for native bees

INSECTS

Attracted to scented flowers, *Heliothis punctifera* Lesser Budworm, *Teia anartoides* Painted Apple Moth, *Uresiphita ornithopteralis* Tree Lucerne Moth

BIRD

Fruit eaten by Silvereyes, Fairy-wrens, Scrub Wrens, Thornbills, Flower by honeyeaters;

BEES

Megachile mystaceana (fire-tailed resin bee) *Xylocopa* sp (Carpenter bee)

ID FEATURE

Leaves, elliptic-oblong, flat tapered to narrow base with pointed tip + Flowers scented, purple, pea-shaped + Pods round, short swollen;