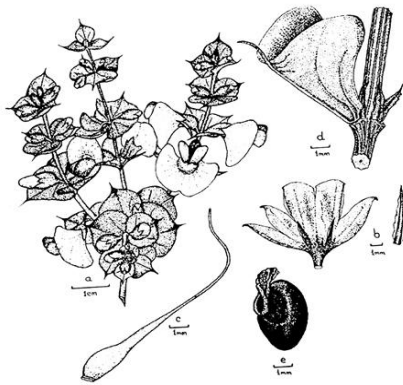


Fabaceae

Pultenaea spinosa

prickly bush-pea



Ann Moran
Field Botanist



ETYMOLOGY

(pull-ten-EE-a) after Richard Pulteney 1730-1801 English botanist. The Latin species spinosa = spiny or thorny, referring to the spiny branches.

LIFEFORM

Shrub 1-1.5m

OCCURS

Isla Gorge Qld to NSW, Vic

QLD DISTRICTS

Burnett, Darling Downs, Moreton, Port Curtis, Wide Bay

HABITAT

Coastal Tablelands, Open Forest

LEAVES

Whorls, 3-8 x 3-6 mm, ovate, oblong, heart-shaped glabrous, 3 sessile, leathery, smooth, concolorous, rarely paler above, grey-green to light green with young growth often reddish tinged or bronzy, venation palmate, stipules 2 mm subulate.

FLOWERS

Pea-shaped, 4-7 mm yellow standard/wings red toward base, bracteoles 3 mm, lacking stipules, bristly to acuminate, hairy, attached at base or lower part of calyx tube. glabrous 4mm calyx; **Flowering Times** Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov

FRUIT

Pods, 6-7 x 4 mm, oval plump hairless, or rarely with a tuft of hairs at apex, black containing 2 seeds; Seeds 2.6-3.4 mm, aril apex entire; **Fruiting Times** Nov, Dec, Jan

STEM

Erect shrub. Stems covered with appressed spreading hairs.

ETHNOBOTANY

Nitrogen fixing root nodules; Of no grazing significance; Dispersed by ants with soil stored seedbank germinating after fire or disturbance.

INSECTS

Acyphas leucomelas, *Amelora milvaria*, *Cryptophasa pultenae*, *Ectropis excursaria*, *Isotenes miserana*, *Macrobathra anacampta*, *M obliquata*, *Nola sp*, *Spilosoma glatignyi* (Moth)

BUTTERFLY

Neolucia agricola (fringed heath blue)

ID FEATURES

Opposite or whorls of 3 + light reddish brown 1-2 mm stipules + yellow pea-shaped flower + pods.

COMMENTS

Dispersed by ants with soil stored seedbank; germinating after fire or disturbance.