

Fabaceae

Pultenaea villosa

hairy bush pea, kerosene bush



Ann Moran
Field Botanist

ETYMOLOGY

(pull-ten-EE-a) after Richard Pulteney 1730-1801 English botanist; The species Latin villosus (vil-OH-sa) shaggy hairs.

LIFEFORM

Shrub 2m x 1m Spread

STATUS

Coastal heath Moreton and Wide Bay districts Qld, NSW, Vic; Short lived 10-15 years.

OCCURS

Fraser Island, Qld to Bega, NSW, Vic

QLD DISTRICTS

Burnett, Moreton, Port Curtis, Wide Bay

HABITAT

Coastal heath, Woodland

LEAVES

Alternate, 4-10 x 1-2 mm, linear to obovate with rounded curved tip, covered in dense short grey hairs with brown 1-4 mm stipules.

FLOWERS

Pea-shaped, 6-7 mm, yellow with red centre, 3-4 flowers bracteoles on calyx usually 3 lobed in terminal heads; **Flowering times** March, April, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov

FRUIT

Pods, 4-6 mm globular ovate, swollen with hairy apex (calyx is usually hairless) containing 2 seeds with aril; **Fruiting times** Oct, Nov, Dec

ROOTS

Woody rootstock; Nitrogen fixing root nodules.

STEM

Well branched erect, spreading woody shrubs with drooping branchlets; with long spreading arching branchlets, covered with white or rusty hairs.

ETHNOBOTANY

Ornamental potential usage in landscaping, rounded shrub for garden screen plant, specimen plant or in informal hedges; Short-lived in gardens; Palatable to stock when young; Apiculture; attractive to European honey bees *Apis mellifera*, major source of pollen and nectar for produces honey (Clemson 1985);

TOLERANCE

Requires full sun; well drained position; Frost hardy.

WILDLIFE

Dispersed by ants with soil stored seedbank.

NATIVE BEES

Exoneura sp. *Megachile* sp., *Xylocopa bombylans*

INSECTS

Host to seed predator anthribid beetle (Auld 1991) *Acyphas leucomelas*, *Amelora milvaria*, *Cryptophasa pultenae* stem-boring pultenaea moth, *Ectropis excursaria*, *Isotenes miserana*, *Macrobathra anacampta*, *M obliquata*, *Nola* sp, *Spilosoma glatignyi* (Moth)

BUTTERFLY

Lampides boeticus long-tailed pea blue, *Neolucia agricola* fringed heath blue

ID FEATURE

Hairy stems, branches drooping + Brown stipules + Leaves 4-10 x 1-2 mm, with hairs stiff, spreading covered with hispid hairs + Flowers axillary yellow-orange pea-shaped flowers + oval pods + 2 seeds.

