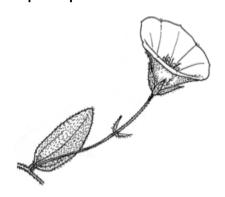
Convolvulaceae Evolvulus alsinoides var decumbens tropical speedwell





Ann Moran Field Botanist





ETYMOLOGY (ee-VOLV-yoo-lus) Latin = unroll, not twinning growth; The species alsinoides = resembles

the genus Asine; variety decumbens (dee-CUM-bens) prostrate with tip rising

LIFEFORM Herb 15-45 cm

STATUS Widespread common Recorded @ >337 Locations (Moran, A 2009)

QLD DISTRICTS Burke, Cook, Darling Downs, Leichhardt, Maranoa, Mitchell, Moreton, North/South Kennedy,

Port Curtis, Warrego, Wide Bay

OCCURS Blackdown Tableland, Elliott Heads Qld, NSW, NT, WA (NG, Mal, SE Asia, Pacific Is)

HABITAT Headlands, grassy woodland

LEAVES Alternate, 6-12 mm, dull densely hairy above, paler underside, upper stems reduced in size

FLOWERS Bell-shaped, 10-20 mm, blue or white shaped like those of periwinkle.

Flowering times April, May Flowers after rain and mainly spring.

FRUIT Capsules, 4 mm, smooth globular with four black seeds.

ROOTS Rootstock thick carrot-like

STEM Subshrub or herb, with hairy, ascending branches; Erect slender spreading hairy stems; ETHNOBOTANY Groundcover; Palatable to stock little forage bulk. Whole plant contains *Alkaloid evolvine*

BUTTERFLY Junonia villida Meadow Argus

INDIGENOUS USES Stalks/leaves/roots as remedy for dysentery and fever (Pearson 1974); Twigs were used as

a tonic; leaves chewed presumably as narcotic.

ID FEATURE Peduncles (flower stalks) longer than the leaves + Flowers 5 petals + 5 sepals axillary.

Styles forked with linear stigmas + mainly shorter than 1 mm hairs on calyx.

