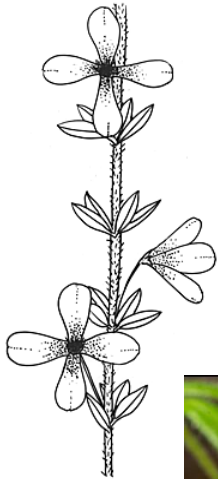


Elaeocarpaceae
Tetratheca thymifolia
 black-eyed susan



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 Field Botanist



ETYMOLOGY

(tet-raTHEEK-a) Greek tetra = four + theke = case, referring to 4 cells of the anthers; The species thymifolia (thyme-ee-FO-lee-ah) leaves like thymne; leaves like the culinary herb.

LIFEFORM

Herb 30-60 cm x 1.5m Spread

STATUS

Widespread in Eastern Australia; from Fraser Island south to East Gippsland **Vulnerable** in Vic; Wide Bay Northern limit of distribution; First cultivate in England in 1824.

OCCURS

Beerwah Qld, Bago Bluff NP NSW, Vic

QLD DISTRICTS

Darling Downs, Moreton, Wide Bay

HABITAT

Coastal Heath, Dry sclerophyll forest

LEAVES

Whorls of 3-5, 20 x 8 mm, obovate to elliptic, hairy or hairless; margins rolled under, small, pointed leaves in whorls of 3 to 5 around fine stem.

FLOWERS

Pink or pale purple, 25 mm, pendant, oblong (4 petals, 8 stamens) with anthers dark centre attached by hairy, drooping 20 mm stalks; **Flowering times** All Year

FRUIT

Capsules, 4-6 mm, irregularly beaked, cordate to cuneate or depressed-globose; roughly wedge-shaped, 4 celled containing 2.5-3 mm seeds **Fruiting times** All year

ROOTS

Woody rootstock

STEM

Erect ascending branches from woody stems; Slender, hairy, more or less erect terete, stems with bristly ridges.

LANDSCAPE USES

Herb compact clump; Excellent plant for an outdoor container.

WILDLIFE

Flowers have strong fragrance on hot days which attract insects.

ID FEATURE

Leaves whorled in 4's, narrowly elliptical to almost orbicular, shiny, margins loosely, revolute
 + Flowers pendent, lilac pink, solitary.