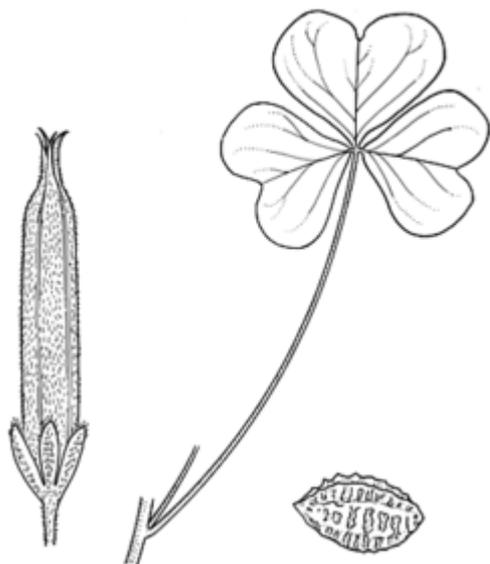


Oxalidaceae
Oxalis perennans
 hairy oxalis



Ann Moran
Field Botanist



Fruit capsules



Alan Moore – female flower



Mike Fox - male flower

ETYMOLOGY

(ox-AL-IS) Greek oxys = acid sour, sharp + alis = saltiness because of the salty pungent taste of leaves and stem; The species perennans (per-REN-nans) from Latin. per = through annus = year; continual perpetual describing the lasting presence of this plant.

LIFEFORM

Herb 25 cm

STATUS

Widespread from Pilbara, Gascoyne and Murchison, east to Nullarbor; Uncommon in Esperance Kings Park WA NSW:

OCCURS

Mt Gravatt Glenmorgan Monto Qld to NSW, Otway NP Vic, Strzelecki Dunefields NT, SA, Northampton WA, Tas (NZ)

QLD DISTRICTS

Burnett, Darling Downs, Leichhardt, Maranoa, Mitchell, Moreton, North/South Kennedy, Port Curtis, Warrego

HABITAT

Disturbed, lawns, remnant bushland

LEAVES

Basal 10-40 mm, wedge or heart-shaped 3 leaflets, bright green on 15 mm stem.

FLOWERS

Yellow, 2-3 cm, with 5 petals.

Flowering times March, April, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov,

FRUIT

Capsules, 4-30 mm, slender hairy bright green pod-like fruit held erect, seeds ribbed.

Fruiting times April, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov,

ROOT

Stout taproot; no bulbils

STEM

Low-growing herbaceous perennial forming scaly bulbils near soil surface; Perennial herb, sometimes creeping that climbs up grasses and other plants if nearby.

BUTTERFLY

Lucia limbaria (Chequered Copper)

INDIGENOUS USES

Leaves eaten taste like green apples, Edible stout taproot

ID FEATURE

Confused with *Oxalis corniculata* because of the large flower. All parts with hairs and generally shorter on capsules

