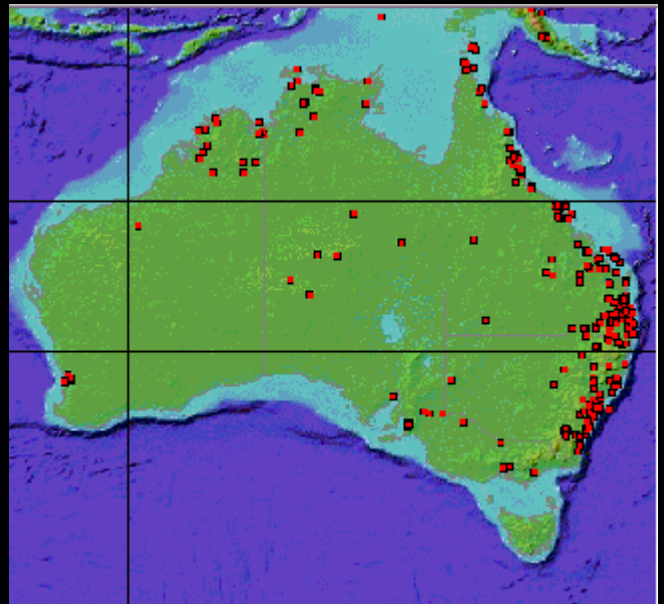


Cobblers Pegs

Bidens Pilosa



Courtesy of Australian virtual herbarium

Description: *Bidens pilosa* is an annual plant producing an erect, much-branched stem up to 100cm tall, though the plant can often flower, seed and then die when much smaller

As A Soil Indicator: Very low Calcium, Very low Phosphorus, High Potassium, High Magnesium, High Manganese, High Boron

Life cycle: *Bidens pilosa* normally behaves as an annual weed but at least one form, *B. pilosa* var. *radiata*, may behave as a perennial. One isolated plant can produce over 30,000 seeds, which are generally highly viable. Seeds germinate on the soil surface or in shallow soil (to a depth of 1 cm). Seeds at greater depths remain viable in the soil for many years. There is usually a great flush of germination after tillage of the soil. Seeds are widely dispersed through the fruits hook-like bristles that embed themselves in clothing and the fur of mammals and feathers of birds. They are also spread by wind, water and soil.

Beneficial: Roots, leaves and seed have been reported to possess antibacterial, ant dysenteric, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, antimalarial, diuretic, hepato-protective and hypotensive activities.

Detrimental: *Bidens pilosa* is a serious weed in many cropping systems in many countries where it reduces yield because of its fast growth and competitive abilities which include allelopathic properties.

Family: Asteraceae, which are known for attracting beneficial insects