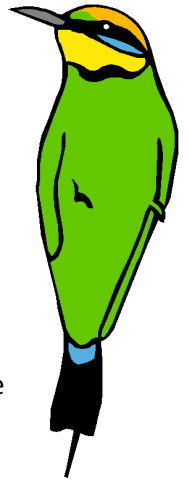


# GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE

## Sclerolaena

They may be a nuisance, and you most certainly don't want them anywhere you may be walking barefoot, but *Sclerolaena* (copperburrs, prickly bushes, bindyi) are a favourite of birds in Central Australia, and a guarantee that you'll have a variety of bird species feasting on them in your garden. Belonging to the family *Chenopodiaceae*, all 80 species of *Sclerolaena* are endemic to Australia.

Pictured below are 7 of the many species of *Sclerolaena* that are common in the Alice Springs region, so you can identify what the birds in your backyard are eating, or what's embedded in the bottom of your foot....



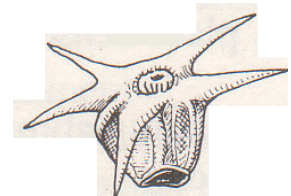
### **Grey Copperburr *Sclerolaena diacantha***

*diacantha*: with two thorns or prickles  
Perennial up to 30cm high with densely hairy stems. Linear, succulent leaves 10-15mm long  
Occurs on a wide variety of soil types, but most commonly on sand plains. Often recognised as the most palatable of the *Sclerolaena* species  
Fruit has 2 spines



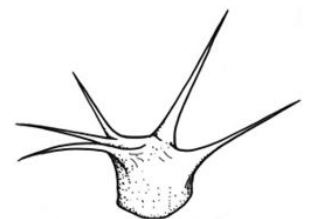
### ***Sclerolaena costata***

Perennial up to 60cm high with fleshy, linear leaves 4-10mm long. Occurs slightly saline habitats including mulga scrub and the base of rocky hills.  
Fruit has 4 spines



### **Johnson's Copper Burr *Sclerolaena johnsonii***

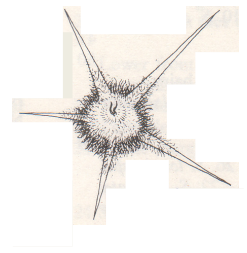
Perennial to 40 cm high; branches glabrous (bare) to slightly hairy.  
Succulent leaves up to 10cm long.  
Fruit has 5 longish spines





**Cartwheel Burr *Sclerolaena cornishiana***

*cornishiana*: named after William Cornish, 19<sup>th</sup> century SA government surveyor  
Small, branched woolly annual or perennial forb, 30-60cm height. Soft small dense shrub with whitish hairs.  
Occurs in small colonies in stony or rocky saline, sandy or clayey soils.  
Fruit has 5-6 spines.



**Goatshead Burr *Sclerolaena bicornis***

*bicornis*: 2 horned, referring to the fruit  
Branching shrub to 60cm high; covering of white woolly hairs.  
Grows in red and black clayey soils, often in disturbed areas. It is an indicator of poor soil condition.  
Fruit is white and woolly with 2 spines



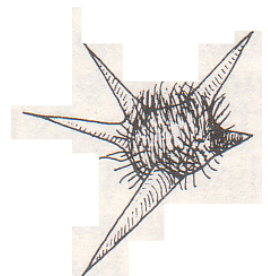
**Succulent Copper Burr *Sclerolaena cuneata***

Dense, prickly, short-lived perennial forb up to 30cm high; fleshy leaves.  
Grows in red clay, loam, sandy and shallow soils on plains, hills and stony ridges. Recognised as an increaser species and an indicator of overgrazing or overutilisation  
Fruit has 3 (sometimes 4) strong spines



**Tall Copper Burr *Sclerolaena convexula***

A perennial forb up to 40cm high, with a covering of silky hairs.  
Small, pointy leaves 0.5-1cm long. Found in sandy and loamy red soils, and the shallow soils of hillsides  
Fruit has 5 short spines



Flora of Central Australia. 1973. Jessop, ed.  
Purdie, Materne and Bubb. 2008. *A Field Guide to Plants of the Barkley Region Northern Territory*, Barkley Landcare and Conservation Association  
Moore, 2005. *A Field Guide to Plants of Inland Australia*, Reed New Holland

## Webpages worth a look

**Creating a 'weed planner'** [http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/fs58\\_garden%20weeds\\_tactics.pdf](http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/fs58_garden%20weeds_tactics.pdf)

This fact sheet gives suggestions about developing and outlining a weed management plan. It recommends a succession of tactics for different phases of eradication. The most useful part of this fact sheet is the blank 'weed planner' which helps you to create a structured, organised plan for your property. Useful for organising to tackle persistent buffel or couch invasion!

**For the avid bird lovers among you** <http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/>

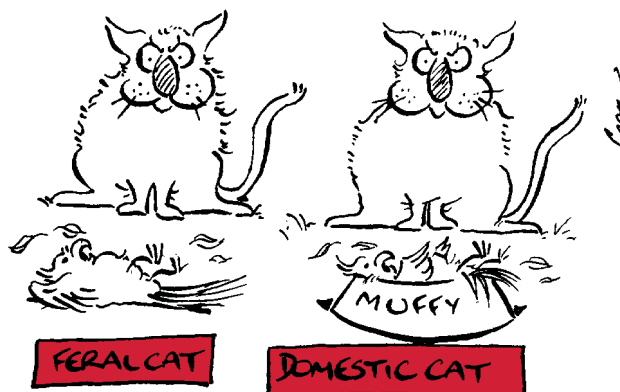
This site has been created by a group who exist to conserve Australia's native birds and their habitats by the expansion of scientific knowledge. It contains an extensive atlas of Australian birds, an image library and educational resources. Being Australia-wide, it can be general in places, however is a collaboration of vast networks of research, so worth a browse.

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Firstly, I'd like to offer big congratulations for our previous Garden for Wildlife coordinator Heidi Groffen, who on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August, gave birth to a 3.7kg baby Elke Hodgens. Heidi, Pat and Elke are all happy, healthy and enjoying their new adventures!

If there is something you'd be particularly interested in reading about in our monthly newsletters, please email me and I'll do my best to ensure it's covered.

**On September 20th Desert Garden and Sustainability Fair** Olive Pink Botanic Gardens 8am - 4pm. It will be an exciting day with many different organisations and businesses represented and showcasing information, products and interactive activities to suit adults and kids. There will also be a solar oven bake-off, plenty of gardening demonstrations, kids games, competitions, product promotions, and a huge native plant sale. The Fair is designed to promote sustainable living, gardening in our desert regions, conserving local biodiversity, and appreciating local bushfoods and bush medicines. ABC Radio will be broadcasting on site during the morning.



**Natural Heritage Trust**

*Helping Communities Helping Australia*

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