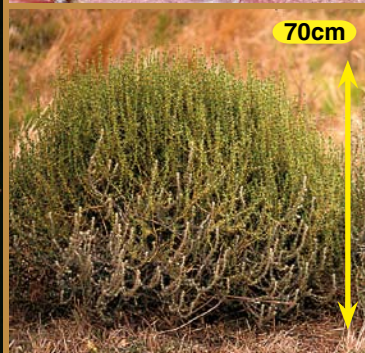
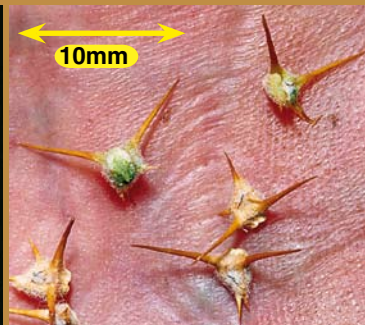
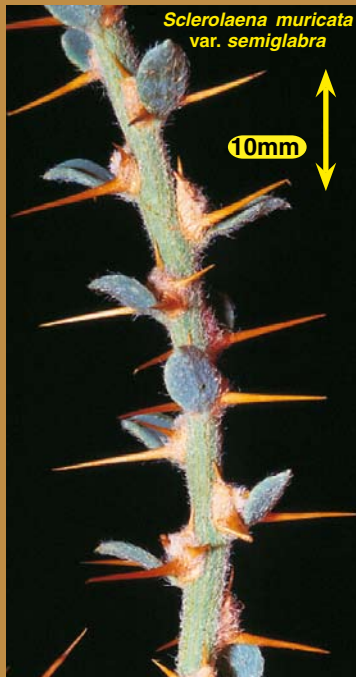


BLACK ROLY POLY

Sclerolaena muricata

S1
SHRUB



BLACK ROLY POLY

Sclerolaena muricata

Sustainable
Grazing on
Saline Land



SALTdeck Series

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S1

Family: Chenopodiaceae.

Description: Much-branched short-lived perennial shrub, to about 1 m tall. Branches tangled, becoming brittle with age, hairless or with woolly covering (see photo). Leaves 5–20 mm long, linear to elliptic, hairless or with appressed hairs. Flowers minute, solitary in the leaf axils. Flowers mostly summer through autumn.

Key features: Hemispherical shaped sub-shrub; 4–5-spined fruit, firmly attached on an oblique base to the branch with 5 spreading slender spines, 2–3 longer spines at the top of the fruit and 1–2 shorter at the base.

Value: This species is rarely grazed except when very young. Useful coloniser of bare soil and scalded or moderately saline land.

Salinity and waterlogging tolerance: Moderate tolerance to saline soils. Generally not adapted to frequently inundated or waterlogged land.

Notes: Species has three varieties all native to Australia. *Sclerolaena muricata* var. *muricata* is hairless or nearly so; var. *semiglabra* has short mostly appressed hairs and var. *villosa* has woolly branches and silky-pubescent leaves. A very common complex growing over a large area of temperate Australia. When mature the plant will break-off and spread as 'roly-polys', collecting on fences, channels and ground tanks. Sometimes targeted for removal as it provides cover for rabbits and the spiny fruit contaminates wool.

References: *Flora of South Australia*, Jessop and Toelkien (eds), Part 1, 4th edition, 1986. *Flora of Victoria*, Walsh and Entwisle (eds), Vol. 3, 1996. *Flora of NSW*, Harden (ed), Vol. 1, 1990. *Plants of Western NSW*, Cunningham et al., 1981.

