

Peppy Plants February 2015

by Eleanor Bennett

A plant common on the fore dunes at Peppy Beach is *Threlkeldia diffusa* commonly called Coast Bone Fruit (see also [Threlkeldia diffusa](#)). It is common in near coastal areas, especially in winter-wet depressions. It is recorded from Broome in the north to the South Australian border in the east and also occurs in South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania. *Threlkeldia* is named after an English botanist Caleb Threlkeld (1676-1728) and *diffusa* from the Latin *diffusus* meaning loosely or widely spreading in reference to the growth habit of this species. *Threlkeldia diffusa* is a much branched spreading shrub up to 30cm high, flowering is recorded from most months. The fleshy, narrowly cylindrical leaves are up to 3cm long and 2mm wide, scattered and without a stalk but with a pointed tip. The solitary flowers are green, and occur in the leaf axils. The calyx is 3-lobed with a fleshy tube up to 2mm long with membranous lobes up to 0.5mm long. There are no petals. The fruiting calyx is urn shaped, up to 3mm long with a shallow, 3-lobed cup at the top, woody with a thin black fleshy outer layer.



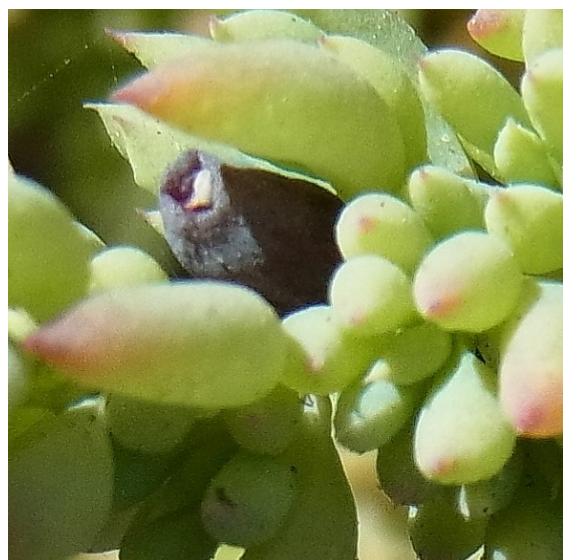
Threlkeldia diffusa is a spreading shrub.



The flowers are solitary in the leaf axils, green in colour but without any petals.



The leaves are fleshy, long cylindrical with a pointed tip.



The fruiting calyx is urn-shaped up to 3mm long, woody with a thin black, fleshy outer layer.