

****Arctotis stoechadifolia***

Commonly: Arctotis

Vascular Plant Family: Asteraceae

Flowers late spring to early summer

**Arctotis stoechadifolia* is a native of the Cape Province in South Africa where it is becoming less common. It is a prostrate, perennial plant rooting along the stems, commonly grown in home gardens. Care must be taken to ensure it does not become established in the coastal bushland. Unfortunately there are a few locations where it has become established in the bushland at Peppermint Grove Beach.



typically cream or white in colour but occasional pink, yellow and bronze coloured forms occur. They occur around the perimeter of the inflorescence, are distinctly 3-veined and have a darker colour towards their base. The underside is brown or maroon coloured. These flowers are female only.



The leaves are up to 20cm long with an indented or toothed margin and silvery grey in colour. They have a distinctive smell when touched.



The tubular florets are smaller, numerous and bisexual. They have 5 equal sized lobes, and as the stigma matures it collects pollen from the anthers. This is visible in the photograph below.



The inflorescence is up to 15cm across and consists of 2 types of flowers. The outer "tongue-like" called ligulate florets and the inner tubular florets. The ligulate florets are

The dark black background of the above photograph is buds of the tubular flowers which as yet have not opened.

*Indicates it is a weed