

# Peppy Plants September 2014

by Eleanor Bennett

***Daucus glochidiatus*** commonly called Australian Carrot is a small annual herb up to 6cm tall, common in the sandy soils around Peppy Beach (see also [Daucus glochidiatus](#)). It extends from Cape Range in the north to Eucla and inland to Leonora but also occurs in the eastern Australian states. ***Daucus*** is of Latin origin used for various plants of the Carrot Family that have medicinal value; and ***glochidiatus*** is derived from the Greek meaning having a projecting barbed bristles. The leaves vary between 2cm and 16cm long and are twice divided. The individual leaflets are egg-shaped up to 2cm long and 1.2cm wide and covered with coarse hairs. The inflorescence consists of 2-5 flower clusters each with 1-6 white, to pink flowers. The flowers are bisexual the calyx and petals arising above the ovary. The fruits are 3-5mm long with each of the 2 fruitlets covered in barbed bristles. It is an intricate little plant and worthy of close examination.



A small plant of *Daucus glochidiatus* (divided leaves) growing amongst a *Geranium* species (round leaves).



The white petals of the flowers are obvious in this photograph and there are many white hairs on the ovary.



The leaves are twice divided and covered with coarse hairs.



The fruit have white, barbed bristles on their surface when young. The bristles spread at right angles to the surface. As they mature the fruits turn brown.



Petal

Anther

Barbed hairs on ovary

