

***Opercularia vaginata***  
**Commonly: Dog Weed**  
**Vascular Plant Family: Rubiaceae**  
Flowers late winter and spring

*Opercularia vaginata* is a slender perennial herb to 30cm tall.



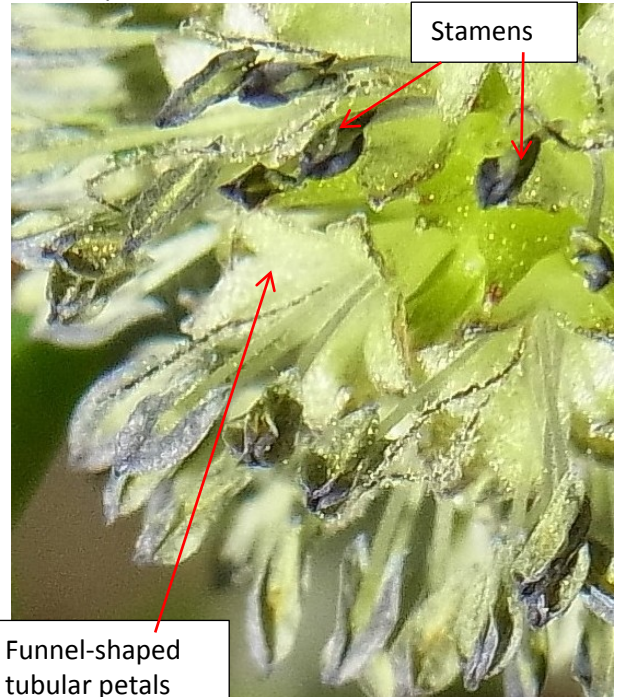
The leaves are opposite, without a stalk, linear up to 4cm long and 3mm wide. There is a fused stipule at their base which forms a short sheath. In the photograph below the sheath is brown coloured.



The flowers are green, ball shaped, up to 15mm across and on a distinct stalk. The calyx lobes are joined at their base into a tube with the free lobes



In this photograph the stamens are obvious (purple coloured) and so are the funnel-shaped tubular petals.



The young fruits are visible in this photograph as is the deeply divided 2-branched style. At maturity the fruits open by small lids.

