

Peppy Plants July 2012

by Eleanor Bennett

This month features *Scaevola crassifolia* commonly known as Thick-leaved Fanflower (see also [Scaevola crassifolia](#)). *Scaevola* is derived from the Latin *scaevus* (also a Roman surname) meaning left handed; and the Latin *crassius* meaning thick and *folium* meaning leaf. All *Scaevola* species are called Fanflowers from the fan-like appearance of the opened flower.

Scaevola crassifolia is a relatively common shrub in the Peppy Beach dunes. It is a dense shrub up to 1m tall, often shiny due to its lack of hairs and the young shoots are sticky. The leaves are stalked and thick with a toothed margin. The inflorescence is a spike with blue rarely white, stalkless flowers. The petals are joined into a tube which is split open on one side and the free parts of the petals are winged. The style is enlarged at the tip into a pollen cup (indusium). The fruit is round with 3-5 swollen ribs.



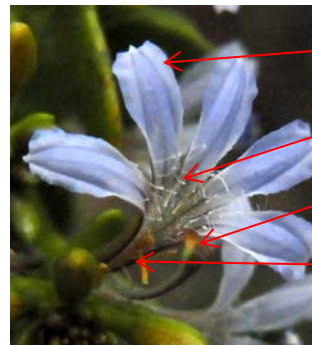
Dense *Scaevola crassifolia* shrub photographed along one of the walk tracks



Dense flowering head



This photograph illustrates the stalked leaves and the toothed margin. The leaves are nearly circular in outline.

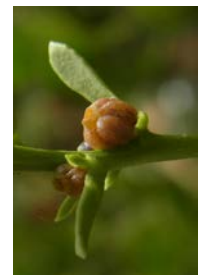


- Winged petal
- Hairs in flower throat
- Pollen cup
- Joined petals split open to base of flower

It should be obvious from this photograph of the flower why it is thought to resemble a hand or a fan.



The shiny, distinctly stalked leaves are arranged alternately on the stem.



This illustrates a plant with dense fruits and a closer photograph shows the obvious ribs.