

Peppy Plants October 2013

by Eleanor Bennett

Trachyandra divaricata is a major weed of coastal dunes that is now in flower (see also [Trachyandra divaricata](#)). It is commonly called Trachyandra but also Strapweed or Dune Onion Weed. **Trachyandra** is derived from the Greek, trachy meaning rough and andro meaning male, in reference to the rough (hairy) filament of the stamens; and **divaricata** from the Latin divaricatus meaning widely spreading in reference to the inflorescence. It is a tuberous, perennial, herb with fleshy leaves, slightly rough to the touch, that can be up to 70cm long and 8mm wide, which when the plant is mature may spread over the soil surface for up to 1m. The inflorescence is erect, much branched with numerous stalked flowers. It has adaptations for dispersal by water and wind. Wind dislodges the fruiting inflorescences which act as tumble weeds spreading the many seeds. It is a major weed of coastal areas from Geraldton to Albany. It is a native of South Africa.



The long flat fleshy leaves spread over the ground. The inflorescence is much branched.



Each flower occurs in the axil of a pale coloured, nearly hyaline bract. The flowers are white with a brown stripe and with 2 yellow spots at the base. There are 6 free petals up to 12mm long and 6 stamens.



This illustrates a dense area of flowering *Trachyandra divaricata* plants.



The fruit is a capsule, which splits open to release the numerous black seeds.

PGBCA has received a second Coast West Grant. This article is a result of that grant. If you are interested in assisting with photographing Peppy's plants for inclusion in the proposed online book please contact Eleanor on 0429329980.