

COBBLERS PEGS

Bidens pilosa

HERBACEOUS

Family Asteraceae

Origin Europe

Description Slender, annual, woody, herb growing to a height of 2 m with a spread of 1 m. Adapts to most soils and prefers open, sunny positions. The species is drought and frost resistant¹. This herb invades dunes, headlands and sides of tracks along the entire NSW coast. Although it reaches up to 2 m, it may appear shorter in coastal areas².

Stems/Leaves Opposite, compound leaves, ovate to lanceolate in shape. The leaves have toothed margins and are arranged in 3-5 leaflets³. Colour ranges from light to dark green and sometimes red. Leaves are sparsely hairy⁸.

Flowers Small, yellow-white flowers flowering throughout the year but mainly summer to autumn³.

Fruit/Seed Ribbed achene with 2-5 barbed awns 11 mm in diameter, in season throughout the whole year. Dispersal is via attachment, wind and water. One plant can produce 3000-6000 seeds in a year. The seeds have high longevity and are still capable of 80% germination after 3-5 years in the soil. Germination requires sunlight and well aerated soils⁸.

Root system Taproot and fibrous lateral roots⁸.

Removal techniques

Manual Easily hand removed with a knife. Take care to remove roots as well. Seeds should be bagged and disposed of².

Chemical Chemical controls are available. Spraying with 1% solution of Roundup is effective⁸. It is best to spray during active growth before seeding²¹.

Maintenance Shading out the area by dense planting is effective in ensuring the weed does not continue to grow⁸.

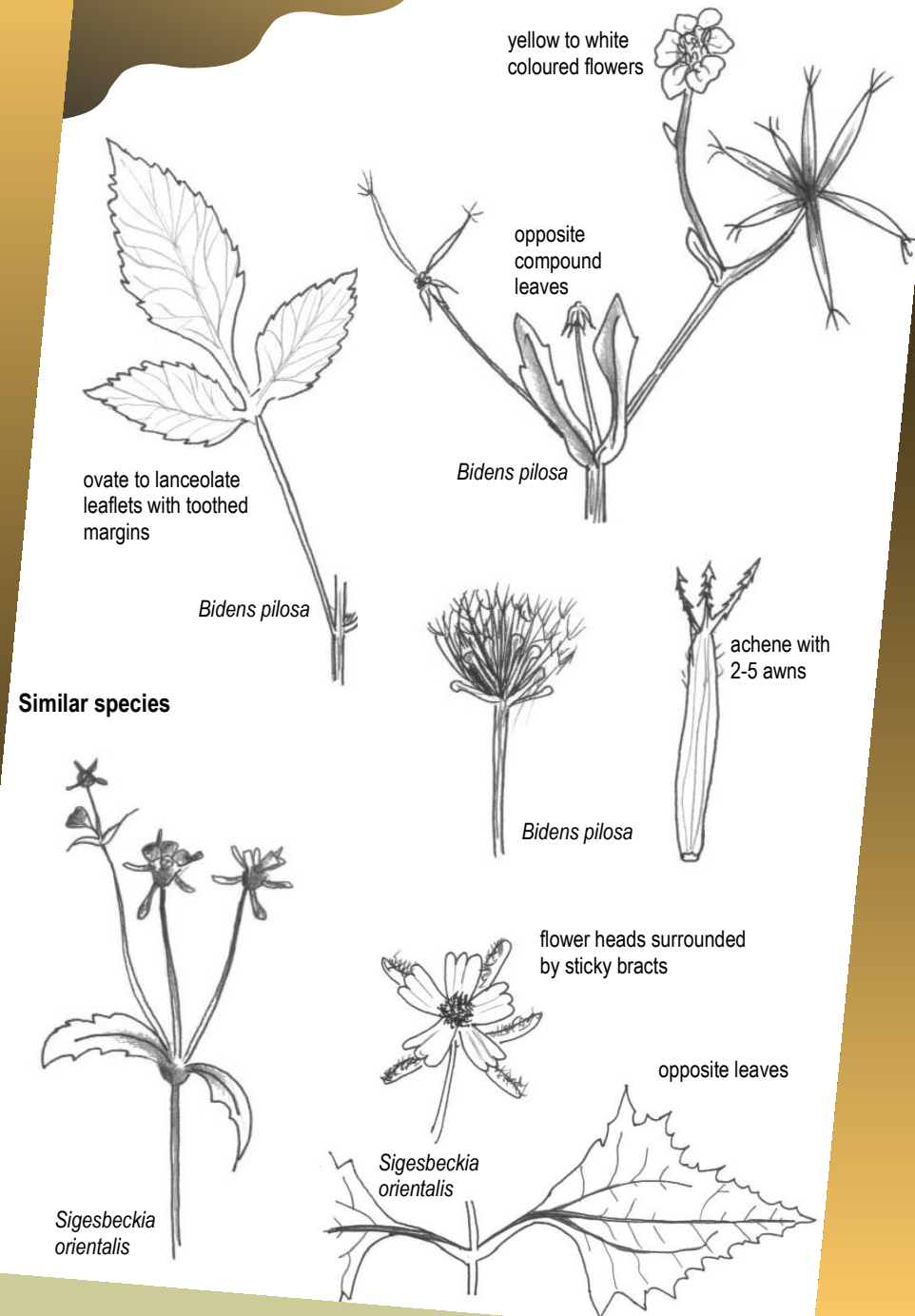
Similar species

Indian Weed (*Sigesbeckia orientalis*): A bushy herb growing up to 1.5 m in rainforests, moist sheltered gullies on good soils. Unusual flower heads surrounded by bracts covered in sticky gland-bearing hairs either red or green. Flowers from spring to autumn. Opposite leaves covered in short stiff hairs on red stems. An opportunistic weed found in tropical and temperate parts of the world. It most likely reached Australia without the aid of Europeans⁹.

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