

Plant of the Month — October 2018

Gastrolobium sericeum (Sm.) G.Chandler & Crisp



Gastrolobium sericeum is a weakly branched shrub to 1 m high often found scrambling up through other shrubs. The stunning black pea flowers occur from September to December.

Gastrolobium sericeum is endemic to south-west WA where it grows on the banks of water courses and swamp margins on clay and sandy soils in open shrublands. It occurs from east of Denmark, Cranbrook, on the western edge of the Stirling Range.

The name *Gastrolobium* is from the Greek words *gastros*, meaning "stomach", and *lobus*, meaning "pod", referring to the seed pods. The circumscription of the genus *Gastrolobium* and its allied genera has changed considerably over the years and species have been transferred from one genus to another on several occasions, with *Gastrolobium* now including species formerly in *Brachysema*, *Jansonia*, *Nemcia* and *Oxylobium*. *Gastrolobium* is now the largest genus (in number of species) of pea-flowered legumes from the tribe Mirbelieae in WA, and the third largest Australia-wide (after *Pultenaea* and *Daviesia*).

Photo: R. Davis

[Find out more about *Gastrolobium sericeum* \(Sm.\) G.Chandler & Crisp](#)

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