

Plant of the Month

March 2022

POTM (/in-focus/tag/potm)

Asparagopsis taxiformis (Delile) Trevis.



Following a pattern established a few years back, March is ‘seaweed month’. This month we are highlighting the fluffy red seaweed *Asparagopsis taxiformis* (foxtails), which until recently might have gone unnoticed in the marine flora. These days it even features in prime-time television commercials, as it has been discovered that adding even a small amount of *Asparagopsis* to ruminant stock feed drastically reduces their methane output, a major

greenhouse gas. Researchers are now looking at the best way to farm this seaweed, as wild harvesting the required quantities would not be sustainable.

Foxtails is widespread along the WA coast, from the tropics south to at least the Capes region, generally growing on rock in shallow water. It is often seasonal in colder waters, overwintering as the inconspicuous alternate stage of the life cycle, with the conspicuous plants appearing commonly in spring and summer.

Photo: J. Huisman

[Find out more about *Asparagopsis taxiformis* \(Delile\) Trevis.](#)

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/26486?ref=florabase.ghost.io>

| Tags | |
|--|-----------|
| All Items (/in-focus) | |
| General (/in-focus/tag/general) | 2 |
| Nuytsia (/in-focus/tag/nuytsia) | 9 |
| Plant of the Month (/in-focus/tag/potm) | 30 |

Florabase is produced by the staff of the [Western Australian Herbarium](#), Biodiversity and Conservation Science, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Publication or other use of content on this site is unauthorised unless that use conforms with the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike license](#).

Western Australian Herbarium (1998–). Florabase—the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

(Accessed 14 June 2023).