

## ***Hypericum androsaemum***

### **Common name:**

Tutsan, Sweet amber,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Seldom eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Moderate risk.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Toxic to horses, cattle and sheep.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Hypericin and pseudohypericin.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Mild diarrhoea,
- . Skin irritation, especially around the head,
- . Reddening and swelling of face and ears,
- . Hind limb weakness,
- . Increased heart rate, and body temperature,
- . Excessive panting and salivation.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Affected animals avoid the sun,
- . They rub sore faces raw, with resulting scab formation.
- . Chronic ill thrift and loss of productivity.

*Treatment;*

- . Provide shade.
- . Try local applications of Condy's crystals.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Declared "Noxious" in Victoria and WA.

### **Comments:**

- . A shrub to 1.5m , semi-evergreen, soft-wooded.
- . Stems are reddish with opposite, oval, stem-clasping leaves, usually curry-scented, green turning red in autumn.

- . Yellow flowers in terminal clusters, with five petals, margins sometimes have black dots.
- . Flowering in from October to January.
- . The sap is blood red.
- . Fruit is round, one cm diameter, red turning to black with reddish-purple juice, and many oval brown seeds.



Picture: *Hypericum androsaemum*  
dpi.vic.gov.au

### **Further Reading:**

- . Blood. Environmental Weeds for SE Australia. CRC Weed Management Systems. 2003.
- . Lamp and Collett. Field Guide to Weeds in Australia. 1979.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds in Australia. 2001.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000.