

## *Eremocarpus setigerus*

### **Common name:**

Turkey mullein, Dove weed,  
Neverfail grass, Bristly lovegrass,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Not known to be eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Low risk.

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

Potentially toxic to sheep, cattle, pigs and poultry.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Unknown.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and symptoms;*

- . Digestive disturbances, diarrhoea,
- . Abdominal pain.

#### *Health and Production Problems;*

- . Chronic digestive problems cause lack of productivity.

#### *Treatment;*

Be aware of potential stock problems.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Grub out before seeds are formed.
- . Herbicides with wetting agents to penetrate hairy leaves. Try 2,4-D.

### **Comments:**

- . A grayish, strong smelling, annual herb, growing in low compact clumps, up to 20cms high and 80cms across.
- . Light grey spreading stems, covered with stiff hairs. Some are longer stinging hairs.
- . Leaves are light grey, lower ones are alternate, upper ones are opposite.
- . Inconspicuous flowers, both male and female, at the ends of the branches.

- . Seed capsule is about 4mm long, containing only one seed.
- . A member of the *Euphorbiaceae* family,
- . Sheep avoid the areas where this weed grows, reducing pasture productivity.
- . Does not interfere directly with cereal crops, but may interfere with harvesting machinery.
- . The plant is very hairy, and may cause “hairballs” in livestock.
- . Native of the Pacific coast of N America.
- . Stems and leaves contain toxic compounds of an unknown type. Used as an arrowhead poison by American Indians.
- . Occurs in semi arid regions, on sandy or clay soils, on roadsides, creek banks, run-down range lands or cultivated fields.
- . Found in W.A., S.A. and along the Murray river.



Picture: *Eremocarpus setigerus* Wikipedia

### **Further Reading:**

- . Hussey, Keighery, Cousins, Dodd and Lloyd. Western Weeds. 1997.
- . Lamp and Collett. Field Guide to Australian Weeds. 1976.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Plants of Australia. 2001
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000.