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.

Further Reading: