**Hypericum tetrapterum**

**Common name:**
St Peters wort,
Square stemmed hypericum,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Moderate, before flowering.

**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 head,
- Reddening and swelling of face and ears,
- Hind limb weakness,
- Increased pulse and body temperature,
- Excess panting and salivation.

*Health and Production Problems;*
- Affected animals avoid the sun,
- Rub sore faces raw, resulting in scabs.
- Chronic ill-thrift and loss of production.

*Treatment;*
- Provide shade.
- Try local application of Condy’s crystal.,

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
- Goats will eat this weed.
- Try cultivation and herbicides – Glyphosates, 2-4-D.

**Comments:**
- An erect perennial, looking like St John’s Wort,
- Stems are green to brownish, with black glands, several main stems develop from each crown.
- Leaves are stem-clasping, opposite, oval and light green.
- Flowers are yellow, daisy-like, at the end of branches in clusters.
- The fruit is a small capsule containing many seeds.
- This herb only appears in Victoria and NZ,
- A native of North Africa and Asia.

![Picture](Hypericum_tetrapterum_wikipedia)

**Further Reading:**
- Parsons and Cuthbertson
  Noxious Weeds of NSW. 2001

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