**Peganum harmala**

**Common name:**
African rue,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Not known to be eaten.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Moderate risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Toxic to sheep and cattle.

**Poisonous Principle:**
- Nitrate compounds,
- Beta-carbolide alkaloids, harmine.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
- Nitrate poisoning,
- Depression, excess salivation,
- Staggering, stiff, uncoordinated gait,
- Trembling limb muscles,
- Rapid, weak pulse,
- Laboured respiration,
- Bluish mucous membranes.

Beta-carbolide poisons -
- Weakness of the hind limbs, with knuckling over in the hind fetlocks, progressing to limb paralysis.

**Health and Production Problems:**
- Animals may die within hours, those recumbent, may die of thirst or pneumonia.

**Treatment:**
- See Vet.
- Paralysing effect on skeletal and cardiac muscles.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
- Dig out and burn,
- Use herbicides,
- Declared “Noxious” in SA and WA.

**Comments:**
- An erect perennial growing from a thick, strong rhizome.
- Bushy, stiff stems, with many branches, growing up to 45 cms high.
- Leaves are alternate, bright green and succulent, up to five cms long, deeply divided into three narrow fern-like segments.
- Single flowers on long stalks with five white petals.
- Fruit is a three celled capsule, with many angular seeds.
- Native to the Mediterranean region.
- Found in central west NSW, patches in SA.

![Picture: Peganum harmala](wikipedia)

**Further Reading:**
- Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia 2001
- Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000

Information included in this Info Sheet was obtained from the source documents, and no responsibility will be accepted by the compiler.