**Sclerolaema muricata**

**Common name:**
Black roly poly, Five spined salt bush.

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Eaten when young.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Oxalates.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Muscle tremors,
. Staggering gait,
. Collapse and sudden death.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Chronic kidney disease, with associated ill thrift is possible, when large amounts of oxalate producing plants are eaten over long periods.

*Treatment;*
. Be aware of potential stock problems.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Apply herbicide, Group I, to actively growing plants after good soaking rain.
. Wet thoroughly.
. Prevent seeding, hoe in before flowering.
. Spot spray seedlings, use goats to graze the young weeds.
. This is a declared “Noxious” weed in Victoria, Queensland and parts of NSW.

**Comments:**
. A large, rounded, prickly clump to 90cm tall.
. Leaves are dark blue-green when young, and turn yellowish-green with age, about 10 mm long, and often have scattered hairs.
. Burrs are yellow, hairless and have 5 spines of differing lengths, the longest is 10mm.
. Found on clay and loam soils, degraded pastures, and abandoned cultivation.
. Dense stands indicate recent history of disturbance by drought or overgrazing.
. Plants increase in number after a run of wet winters after drier summers, however dense stands are short lived.
. Useful in the first stages of colonizing bare ground, as they stabilize soil and provide ground cover for newly emerging useful forage plants.
. Burrs in wool cause problems at shearing, but are easily removed during processing.

Further Reading:

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