

Senecio pterophorus

Common name:

African daisy,

Palatability to Livestock:

Low.

Toxicity to Goats:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to horses, pigs, cattle and sheep.

Poisonous Principle:

Pyrrolizidine alkaloids.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Chronic weight loss,
- . Acute jaundice,
- . Photosensitization, especially white animals.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Eating an excess of this plant may cause chronic liver damage.
- . Reduced long term productivity.
- . Damaged livers in some ruminants may accumulate an excess of copper, which can kill the animal.

Treatment;

- . None.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Weed out into disposable bags if in flower or fruiting.
- . Use herbicide ,group C.
- . Spot spray, slash or mow.
- . Declared “Noxious” in SA especially in the Eyre Peninsula, and in Victoria.

Comments:

- . A shrub with erect stems, up to two metres high; soft and sappy when young, becoming woody with age.

- . Upper leaves are dark green, woolly below, and very narrow, with no stalks.
- . Many yellow flower heads, in flat topped bunches, individual flowers are like daisies.
- . Native to S Africa.
- . Does not persist in established well-managed pasture.



Picture: Senecio pterophorus dpi.vic.gov.au

Further Reading:

- . Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1992
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Swarbrick and Skarratt Bushweed 2 Database.1994.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000.