Solanum aviculare
Solanum laciniatum,

Common name:
Kangaroo apple,

Palatability:
Occasionally eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:
Low risk.

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

Poisonous Principle:
Steroidal alkaloid glucocides, solasodine.

Effects:
Signs and symptoms;
. Burning of mouth,
. Severe diarrhoea,
. Deep nervous depression,
. Paralysis and gastro-intestinal irritation.

Health and Production Problems;
. Weight loss.
. Death, maybe due to heart failure after a week of illness.

Treatment;
See Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:
. Control achieved by pasture management.

Comments:
. A short lived perennial, fast growing small shrub, with an open habit, similar to S. laciniatum, the southern spp.
. On young plants, leaves are deeply divided into narrow segments. Older plants have leaves with irregular lobes.
. Leaves are long and dark green, stalks often purplish.

. Flowers are in bunches in forks of leaves, blue to purple, star-shaped, five cms across, spring to summer flowering.
. The fruits hang down, bright orange or yellow to red when ripe, with many seeds in a soft pulp in an oval capsule. They are sickly sweet with a bitter aftertaste.
. Found in bushland and waste ground, in subtropical and temperate regions of Australia.
. A native to Australia and the Pacific region.
. All parts are toxic, except the burst ripe berries.
. There are two similar species, one in southern regions the other in the tropics, found on moist well-drained soils.
. In Europe, this plant is farmed to produce solanine for contraceptive pills.

Picture Solanum aviculare

References;

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