

Trachyandra divaricata

Common name:

Branched onion weed,
Strap weed, Dune onion weed,

Palatability to Livestock:

Low.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to sheep, cattle horses and pigs.

Poisonous Principle:

Unknown.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Hind limb weakness, arched back,
- . Reluctance to move, knuckling of the fetlocks, recumbency.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Chronically debilitating and progressive condition in stock forced to eat this weed in dry months; onset is after 4 – 6 weeks.

Treatment;

Nil.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Unknown, try herbicides.

Comments:

- . Tuberos perennial herb, spread by seed.
- . Leaves are flat, growing as a clump from the base of the plant.
- . The flowering stalk is sturdy, and has many branches, each having many flowering stalks.
- . Flowering is in spring, white tubular flowers in small clusters, petals have a pair of yellow spots near the base.
- . No smell of onions about any part of the plant.

. A native of South Africa, now widespread in the south of WA, SA and NSW.



Picture: *Trachyandra divaricata*
florabase.calm.wa.gov.au

Further Reading:

- . Hussey, Keighery, Cousens, Dodd and Lloyd. Western Weeds. 1997.
- . McKenzie. Veterinary Clinical Toxicology. 2000.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000.
- . Swarbrick and Skarratt. Bushweed 2 Database. 1994.