

# Weed Identification

Australia > NT > Northern Territory (NRM) > **Ruby Dock**

Ruby Dock  
***Acetosa vesicaria***



[Pictorial glossary of plant part terms used in this guide.](#)

Alternative Name(s): *Rumex vesicarius*, Rosy Dock, Bladder Dock, Wild Hops.

Family: Polygonaceae.

Form: Herb

Origin: Native of northern Africa and east to India (Punjab).

Flowers/Seedhead: In terminal panicles. Flowers autumn to early summer.

Description: Erect succulent annual herb to 1 m high. Stems hollow and vertically ridged. Leaves alternate, 5–11 cm long, on a stalk often longer than the leaf blade. Capsule wings often tinged bright pink to purple, showy.

Distinguishing features: Distinguished by fibrous roots; succulent ovate to triangular leaves; winged fruits with valves 12–23 mm long, about 15 mm wide.

Dispersal: Spread by seed in fruit that are wind- and water-dispersed.



Leaves & fruit Wampah Gate, Qld, Sept

Notes: Drought resistant plant distributed through the interior of Australia. Fruits showy. It generally invades disturbed land and is common along watercourses. In arid areas it can provide some grazing for stock but contains oxalates and nitrates which may cause poisoning.

References:

*Plants of Western New South Wales*. G. Cunningham et al., 1981, page 228. *Weeds of Natural Ecosystems: a field guide to environmental weeds of the Northern Territory*. N. Smith, 1995, page 37.

Web References: [Search Australian web sites for further information on this weed.](#)



Roadside Tom Price, WA July  
Photo: A.McGilvray



Infestation Wampah Gate, Qld, Sept

This weed has been included in the WEEDeck field guide as card H87

More information about WEEDeck is available from [Sainty & Associates Pty. Ltd.](#)

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