



Two-bristle Greenhood Orchid
Pterostylis biseta
A native treasure of Moorunde

Natural History Society of South Australia Inc.

Bathurst Burr

Xanthium spinosum



Bathurst burr plants growing at wombat burrow entrance



Leaves & burrs (www.dpti.sa.gov.au)



Dense cluster of flower/seed heads

Declared plant in South Australia 2013

Native to South America. Probably introduced on Chilean horses' tails in the 1840s.

Description

Erect, much branched, summer-growing annual herb 30-60 cm high, occasionally to 1 m, reproducing by seed. Most germination occurs after rain in late spring and summer. Plants generally die early in winter but mature plants may be found at any time of year.

Stems greenish yellow with fine short hairs, armed at the base of each leaf and stem node with one or two triple-pronged yellow spines 15-25 mm long.

Leaves to 7 cm long, alternate and divided into three lobes; dark green and shiny above with prominent pale veins, downy and pale green or whitish beneath.

Flowers creamy green, small and inconspicuous, Feb-Jul. Female flowers occur beneath the leaf axils; male flowers at the ends of stems.

Fruit an ovoid, straw-coloured, hairy burr, 1-1.5 cm long and 4-5 mm wide, covered with yellow-orange hooked spines.

Seeds flat, brown or black, 1 cm long, two in each burr. Seed may remain dormant in the soil for up to eight years.

Taproot branched, to over 3 m deep, often with extensive lateral roots.

(www.dpti.sa.gov.au)

