



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

Natural History Society of South Australia Inc.

Saffron Thistle

Carthamus lanatus



Infestation of Saffron thistle



Juvenile plants



Close-up of unopened flower-head with spiny bracts



Dried flower-head – watch your fingers!

Native to the Mediterranean and western Asia. Saffron thistle was first recorded in South Australia in 1874. It may have been introduced unintentionally due to confusion with a close relative, safflower, imported as a source of dye.

Description

Saffron thistle is an erect, annual herb, growing to 1 m or higher.

Leaves are up to 20 cm long and deeply divided with stout spines.

Stems are yellowish white or very pale green.

Flowers being solitary, yellow and surrounded by spiny bracts.

Seeds are four sided, 15 mm to 8 mm long, and ovoid in shape.

(www.daff.qld.gov.au)

