



PLANT OF THE MONTH: APRIL  
**LOVE CREEPER**  
(*Comesperma volubile*)



(Photos E. Cousins)

If you see a blue twining plant growing through acacias and other shrubs at Lands End, it might be the Love Creeper. The thin stems will climb up to two metres. There are not usually a lot of leaves, but those that can be seen, are long and thin (about 50 mm x 5 mm). The purplish blue flowers are spectacular, growing in sprays from about July to December. Isn't the structure of the flowers interesting? There are two "wings", each about 6 mm long and bent inward around tiny inner petals. They look very different to the flowers of *Hardenbergia violacea*, another native creeper. The seeds are pretty amazing too: the mature seed capsule splits open to expose lots of very fine hairs to which the actual seeds are attached ... like a fan of exclamation marks!