

**Trachyandra divaricata*

DUNE ONION WEED

(Jacq.) Kunth

Flowering period: August–November.

Description: Vigorous, fast-growing perennial herb to 35 cm high. Leaves strap-like, somewhat fleshy, 0.5–1 cm wide, 15–30 cm long, semi-erect to flaccid, often trailing along the ground and produced from a deeply buried stem base. Flowers produced in diffuse, open, somewhat spherical inflorescences. Seeds in capsules, produced abundantly with the fruiting stalk breaking off at ground level and blowing around as a means of distributing the small black seeds.

Pollination: Open pollinated by a variety of insects.

Distribution: Widespread along frontal to secondary coastal dunes and on limestone from Jurien Bay to Albany. A highly pernicious weed capable of germinating under a wide range of soil and shade conditions. A rapid-growing species capable of burying its rhizome to depths of 15 cm or more making it difficult to remove by hand and able to cope with sand burial. Can become a major problem weed in dune areas due to its ability to survive long periods of drought, abundant and highly germinable seed, and rapid growth.

Control: Hand pulling can be effective for controlling smaller outbreaks; however, professional weed control advice should be sought for well-established populations. Ensure that seed heads do not remain in the dunes as these may be blown around and spread seed over a large area.



Habit



Fruit



Inflorescence



Distribution