

*\*Lachenalia bulbifera*

(Cirillo) Asch. &amp; Graebn.

TIN SOLDIER

**Flowering period:** August–September.

**Description:** Deciduous bulbous geophytes up to 20 cm tall, though often short in coastal areas. The bulb is white, 3–8 cm deep, fleshy, slightly flattened and surrounded in papery remains of old bulb scales. Leaves narrow, one or two, somewhat fleshy, 8–12 cm long, 1–2 cm wide, plain green or spotted or mottled with dark brown or purple on the upper surface. Flower stem sturdy and erect to 20 cm, though usually shorter in coastal areas. Flowers pendulous, open in rapid succession along the spike, with the petals fused into a tube. The round black seeds are released from the papery capsules and rapidly spread and germinate where they lodge under shrubs or against impediments such as logs or cracks in paths. The plant has an aggressive clonal nature and will often form quite dense colonies in the right conditions.

**Distribution:** Found in scattered coastal locations in the Perth metropolitan region where it is restricted to coastal sands in protected areas. A native to South Africa and often highly sought after as a garden plant.

**Control methods:** Wiping or spraying with a non-selective herbicide.

**Notes:** This species has potential to become more widespread in protected dune areas and, though restricted to a few locations along the coast, all efforts should be made to eradicate the plant.



Fruit



Habit



Flowers



Habit



Distribution