

Plant of the Month - August

by Allan Carr

Chorizema parviflorum

Eastern Flame Pea

Pronunciation: cor-ee-ZEE-ma par-vee-FLOR-um

FABACEAE

Derivation: *Chorizema*, from the Greek, *choros* – a dance and *zema* – a drink. La Billardière and party who discovered the first plants of the genus are said to have danced for joy at finding fresh water nearby. However, it may have been derived from the Greek, *chorizo* – to divide and *nema* – a thread i.e. filament of the *stamen (referring to the stamens being separate rather than united). *parviflorum*, from the Latin, *parvus* – small and *floris* – a flower.



Leaves, buds, flowers



Maturing fruits



Flowers

Chorizema is an endemic genus of about 18 species restricted to south-west WA, except for this one species found in south-east Qld and eastern NSW.

Description: *C. parviflorum* is a slender, weak-stemmed plant to 40 cm high with a stout rootstock amongst grasses in open sunny forests. Stems are angular and slightly hairy.

Leaves to 40 mm x 2 mm are sparse, alternate and pointed with *recurved edges and a hairy lower surface.

Flowers are yellow with red markings, pea-shaped and less than 10 mm across They are borne on loose terminal *racemes of up to 18 flowers from July to September.

Fruits are *turgid pods to 7 mm x 4 mm, dark brown when mature.

*stamen = male organ consisting of a stalk (filament) and pollen-bearing portion (anther)

*recurved = rolled under

*raceme = an unbranched flower stem with flowers on stalks, oldest at the base, youngest at the top

*turgid = swollen

Habit amongst grasses and sedges

