

# Climbing dock, rambling dock, wild kumara, turkey rhubarb, potato vine, climbing sorrel

## *Acetosa sagittata*, Polygonaceae



Photos: A. Stanton

- climbing perennial herb
- grows to 4 m tall
- smothers young native plants and provides a structure for other invasive weeds to grow up
- shade intolerant
- alternately arranged arrow shaped leaves
- grooved green to reddish hairless stems
- kumara-like tubers on long rhizomes, which may extend horizontally quite some distance from the shoot
- small pale green to pink flowers are borne in massed panicles high up on the plant
- fruit take the form of reddish pink, flattened, three-winged, heart-shaped capsules (1 cm), which dry to papery brown
- pink seed are wind dispersed and can float on water
- plant may die back in adverse conditions (damp or drought) then re-grow from the tubers
- native to southern Africa
- cultivated as a vegetable in Indonesia - the leaves and young stems are edible when cooked



**Control:** It is best to weed out climbing dock in spring, before the seed are produced. Trace each growing shoot carefully back into the ground and dig out the rhizomes and tubers. Note that any fragments can re-grow, use of herbicide usually does not kill the tubers and vigilant checking over several years will be needed. If removing plants later in the season, carefully bag the capsules as great drifts of seed will be dropped with the slightest movement. Rhizomes and tubers should be sent to landfill.