



## Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc

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### Plant of the month: Austral Seabligh *Suaeda australis*



Austral Seabligh is another of the coastal saltmarsh plants growing on Anderson Inlet. It is a small rounded perennial shrub to 70 cm tall, branching from the base, with succulent linear leaves to 7-20 cm long, with red or yellow tinges. Flowers occur in clusters from the leaf axils, from October to March, followed by succulent round fruit. It is found in all states apart from Northern Territory.



Austral Seabligh is a halophyte, i.e. a plant growing in highly saline conditions. It grows in full sun and is common fringing coastal and estuarine saltmarsh. Propagation is from seed or cuttings. The leaves and stem tips are edible raw and young shoots can be pickled.



*Suaeda* belongs in the Chenopodiaceae or saltbush family. The genus name *Suaeda* is from the Arabic vernacular name for this plant and the species epithet *australis* means of or from the south, or Australia.