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Plant of the month: Blue Bottle-daisy *Lagenophora stipitata*



Blue Bottle-daisy *Lagenophora stipitata* is a small, rhizomatous perennial herb with a fibrous root system. The hairy leaves form a basal rosette or may occur on the lower stem. They are obovate, with scalloped or toothed edges, 15-55 mm long x 7-20 mm wide. The white, pink or mauve daisy flowerheads, with yellowish centres, 4-8 mm wide, occur on a hairy stalk with small bracts, in spring and summer. The one-seeded fruits are flask-shaped. Blue Bottle-daisy is locally common in the Tea-tree scrub at Venus Bay and is also found in the eastern and southern Australian states.

Blue Bottle-daisy can form an attractive mat in the right position. It likes moist well-drained soils and can tolerate full sun or part shade. Propagation is from seed or division.

Lagenophora belongs in the Asteraceae or Daisy family. The genus name comes from the Greek *lagenos*, meaning a flask or flagon, referring to the shape of the fruit and *phoros*, bearing. The species name, *stipitata*, comes from the Latin *stipitatus*, meaning stalked. Photo: Lorraine Norden.

