



## Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc

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### Plant of the month: Coast Bitter-bush *Adriana quadripartita*



Male flower spike on glabrous (without hairs) Coast Bitter-bush

Coast Bitter-bush *Adriana quadripartita* is a medium shrub, 0.5 to 3 metres high with reddish stems. Leaves are ovate to oblong to 12.5 cm long x 0.5-6 cm wide, with toothed margins. It is dioecious, with male flowers occurring in spikes to 12 cm long and female plants with much shorter flower spikes, from July to February. The flowers have sepals but no petals. Capsules and seeds are ovoid. The plant is usually downy but there is also a glabrous form. Both forms are found at Venus Bay and in isolated areas along the coast west of Wilsons Promontory in Victoria, as well as South Australia and Western Australia.

Coast Bitter-bush is listed in the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 for threatened species and propagation material cannot be collected from the wild.

*Adriana* belongs in the Euphorbiaceae or Spurge family. The genus *Adriana* is named after the French botanist Adrien de Jussieu, 1797-1853 who wrote about the Euphorbiaceae and other plant families. The species name comes from the Latin, *quadri*, four, and *partita*, partitions.

For further information please visit FVBP website above. Photo: Lorraine Norden.

