

Plant of the Month - July

by Allan Carr

Stackhousia nuda

Pronunciation: stack-HOWZ-ee-a NOO-da

Derivation: *Stackhousia*, after John Stackhouse, Cornish botanist and botanical artist; *nuda*, from the Latin, *nudus* – naked, bare (referring to its bare stems with leaves reduced to scales).

leafless stackhousia
STACKHOUSIACEAE



Flowers



Fruits



Clusters of flowers

Stackhousia is a genus of around 17 species of which 16 are Australian and 5 of these are found in south-east Queensland.

Description: *S. nuda* is a sprawling, weak-stemmed herb to 80 cm occurring in wallum wetland areas. It is found from the Sunshine Coast in Qld, down the coast of NSW and into eastern Vic.

Leaves to 40 mm x 8 mm are alternate on young plants but reduced to tiny scales on older plants.

Flowers are star-shaped to 4 mm across with 5 petals above and an often reddish tubular base to 4 mm long. They are a greenish yellow in clusters of up to 4 on one-sided spikes from July to November.



Stems at base of plant

Fruits are dry, deeply wrinkled or *verrucose reddish capsules to 3.5 mm long with 1 to 3 lobes, each with a single seed.

S. viminea (slender stackhousia) a very similar plant, has alternate leaves to 40 mm x 6 mm.

S. spathulata (beach stackhousia) is a tufted herb to 50 cm with alternate, spoon-shaped fleshy leaves to 35 mm x 15 mm and white perfumed flowers crowded on 10 cm spikes. It grows on coastal sites in south-east Qld to Yorke Pen. in SA, and in Tas.

*verrucose = covered in warty outgrowths

Habit amongst grasses and sedges

