

L. adscendens (L.) Hara

Perennial rooted aquatic herb with floating stems; adventitious roots and white, spongy, spindle shaped floats at nodes. Vegetative parts glabrous or sparsely hairy with short and long, simple, hyaline hairs. Stipules persistent, ovate, c. 0.5 mm long. Petioles 3-40 mm long. Leaf blades elliptic, oblanceolate, spatulate or obovate, 11-80 mm long, 4-34 mm wide, L/W 1.8-2.7, base attenuate, apex obtuse with dark swollen gland on abaxial surface. Flowers in upper axils, pubescent on upper part of ovary and calyx. Pedicels 6-26 mm long. Bracteoles persistent, sub-opposite, c. 1 mm long, inserted about middle of ovary. Sepals 5, narrowly triangular, 5-10 mm long. Petals white to pale yellow or yellow at base, obovate, 8-14 mm long. Stamens 10. Fruit brown, cylindrical, obscurely 10-ribbed, 22-27 mm long, c. 3 mm wide. Seeds c. 2 mm long, embedded in fruit tissue. Flowering and fruiting: all year depending on moisture availability. Fig. 43

A common species from India to China and northern Australia. Common in the DR on lagoons of the coastal floodplains. In the terrestrial state on drying wetland margins all parts are contracted, more densely pubescent and rarely fertile.

L. hyssopifolia (G. Don) Exell

Erect annual herb to 0.8 m, rarely taller. Stems finely ribbed, often reddish. Glabrous or with sparse, minute hairs on stems, underside and margin of leaves, ovary and calyx. Stipules persistent, minute. Petioles 1-6(22) mm long. Leaf blades lanceolate to elliptic, 10-90 mm long, 1-20 mm wide, L/W 4.2-7.8; base attenuate; apex acute. Flowers shortly pedicellate. Bracteoles persistent, sub-opposite, inserted about middle of ovary, minute. Sepals 4, narrowly triangular, c. 3 mm long. Petals yellow, elliptic to obovate, 1.8-2.5 mm long. Stamens 8. Ovary 4-ribbed, \pm quadrangular. Fruit \pm sessile, reddish brown, cylindrical, 12-24 mm long, c. 1.5 mm wide, weathering to 4 persistent ribs. Seeds yellowish to pale brown, lenticular, 0.5-0.7 mm long, those from basal part of fruit dispersed with persistent buoyant structures. Flowering and fruiting: all year depending on moisture availability. Fig. 43

Africa to India, Malesia, Oceania and northern Australia. Now considered a pantropic weed.

Common in the DR on coastal floodplains, stream margins and moist habitats.

L. octovalvis (Jacq.) Raven

Herbaceous, annual or short lived perennial shrub, 0.4-2 m high. Stems quadrangular, forming aerenchymatous tissue at base when in water. Vegetative parts, ovary and calyx densely hairy with erect hyaline simple and septate hairs, rarely subglabrous. Stipules obscure. Petioles 2-8 mm long. Leaf blades linear, narrowly elliptic to lanceolate, 60-165 mm long, 2-35 mm wide, L/W 5-35, base attenuate, apex acute to attenuate. Flowers shortly pedicellate. Bracteoles persistent, inserted at base of ovary, minute or rarely foliaceous. Sepals 4, elliptic to lanceolate, 7-13 mm long, falling as fruit matures. Petals yellow, obcordate, 6-12(20) mm long. Stamens 8, anthers hairy or glabrous. Fruit shortly pedicellate, brown, \pm cylindrical, 8-ribbed, 20-55 mm long, 3-6 mm wide, weathering to 8 persistent ribs. Seeds free, brown, \pm globular, 0.6-0.9 mm diam. Flowering and fruiting: Apr - Nov. Fig. 43

Pantropical; throughout northern Australia and in the NT extending into the arid zone. Common in the DR in seasonal or perennially moist habitats. Worldwide a highly variable species. In the NT a distinctive form associated with floodplains differs from the typical by being shorter, subglabrous and narrowly leaved.

L. perennis L.

Annual herb to 1 m, sparsely hairy with minute stiff hairs. Stems, leaves and calyx sometimes reddish. Stipules obscure. Petioles to 7 mm long. Leaf blades narrowly elliptic to linear, 18-110 mm long, 2-10 mm wide, L/W 11-22; base and apex attenuate. Flowers \pm sessile to shortly pedicellate. Bracteoles obscure, at base of pedicel. Sepals 4-5, triangular, 2-3 mm long. Petals yellow, obovate, 2-4 mm long. Stamens 4-5. Fruit \pm sessile, olivaceous to stramineous, \pm obconic, 4(5)-angled, 6-9 mm long, c. 3 mm wide. Seeds free, pink to brown, ellipsoid, 0.3-0.5 mm long. Flowering and fruiting: Feb - July. Fig. 43

Widespread throughout the Old World and across northern Australia. In the NT extending south to Newcastle Waters. Common in the DR in seasonal or perennially moist habitats.

Ludwigia

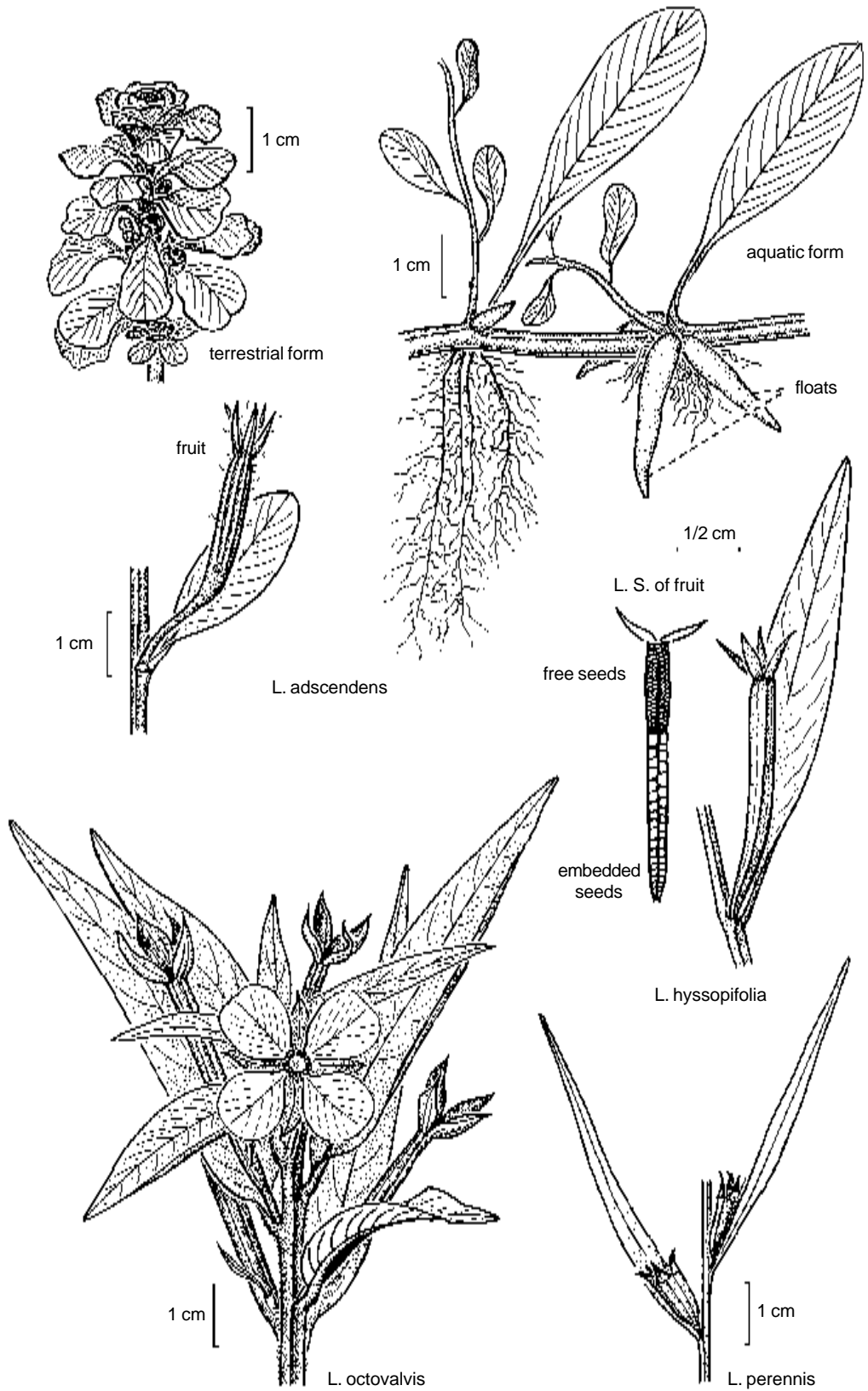


Fig. 43