Genista monspessulana

COMMON NAME
Montpellier broom

SYNONYMS
Teline monspessulana (L.) K.Koch

FAMILY
Fabaceae

AUTHORITY
Genista monspessulana (L.) L.A.S.Johnson (1962)

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE
GENMNS

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

HABITAT
Terrestrial.

FEATURES
Much-branched, usually evergreen shrub up to 2.5m high; twigs villous, particularly when young, round and ribbed. Leaves usually sparsely to densely clothed in appressed hairs on both surfaces, sometimes subglabrous above, petiolate, 3-foliolate; leaflets shortly petiolulate, obovate, acute to obtuse and shortly mucronate, 7~20 x 4~10mm; terminal leaflet larger than lateral leaflets; stipules triangular to lanceolate, up to 2.5mm long. Infl. a cluster, with axis < 10mm long, of 4~7 flowers, terminating short lateral branches; pedicels approx. 3mm long. Calyx densely hairy, bilabiate; upper lip deeply bifid; lower lip shortly 3-lobed. Corolla yellow to golden yellow, 9~13mm long; standard glabrous. Pod densely villous, oblong, 3~6-seeded, around 18~20mm long; seeds green to black, ellipsoid or orbicular, flattened, approx. 2.5mm diam. (Webb et. al., 1988)

SIMILAR TAXA
Evergreen shrub with trifoliate leaves, with stipules and either petiolate or subsessile. Flowers in clusters of 4-7 usually, with an axis of about 1cm (can be up to 4cm in hybrids).

FLOWERING
May, June, July, August, September, October, November

FLOWER COLOURS
Yellow

YEAR NATURALISED
1872

ORIGIN
Mediterranean , Asia Minor, Azores

Teline monspessulana. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

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ETYMOLOGY
genista: From the ancient Latin name for this plant.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Ornamental.

LIFE CYCLE COMMENTS
Perennial. Dispersed by wind, gravity, seed is explosive on warm days.

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/genista-monspessulana/