

Oxylobium -spp

Common name:

Box Poison

Palatability to Livestock:

Seldom eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

High risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to all grazing stock, and dogs as scavengers.

Poisonous Principle:

Monofluoroacetic acid, and saponins.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Accelerated, weak, arrhythmic heart beat,
- . Rapid noisy panting, respiratory distress,
- . Staggering then falling,
- . Bleeding from the mouth.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Death within minutes, to hours,
- . Occasionally, a recovery.
- . Suckers, flowers and seeds are highly toxic.
- . Leaves are less palatable, and less toxic.

Treatment;

See Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Grubb out and burn all lignotubers.
- . Fence off, and apply herbicide.
- . Most species can be controlled by cutting off at ground level, however, some species can sucker from the remaining roots, and must be grubbed out.

Comments:

- . An Australian genus containing about 35 species, 10 of which are found in the eastern states – the rest in south-west WA.

- . Those found in the east and many of those found in WA appear to be non-poisonous,
- . The 7 species known to be toxic (in WA) are:

O. graniticum, Granite poison,
O. heterophyllum, Slender poison,
O. parviflorum, Box poison,
O. racemosum, Net-leaf poison,
O. rigidum, Rigid-leaf poison,
O. spectabile, Roe's poison,
O. tetragonophyllum, Brother-brother,

. The toxic spp all belong to the section *Podopodium*,-

. All have leaves in opposite pairs, or in threes.

. All have pea-like flowers in long racemes, mostly at the end of branches.

. They differ from *Gastrolobium*, in that the seeds are different, and only 1 or 2 mature seeds are in the pods.

. Similar to *Gastrolobium*, in symptoms and lesions.

. Flowers and seeds most toxic.



Picture: *Oxylobium ellipticum* ANBG

Further Reading:

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997