

## *Solanum rostratum*

### **Common name:**

Buffalo burr, Colorado burr,  
Pincushion nightshade,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Occasionally eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Low risk.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Potentially toxic to sheep, cattle and pigs.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Maybe, steroidal alkaloids and glucosides.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

. Acute gastro-enteritis.

### *Health and Production Problems;*

. Affected animals may die.

### *Treatment;*

Be aware of potential stock problems.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

. Prevent seeding, grub out or cultivate.  
. Spot spray with herbicide, Group I.  
. Declared "Noxious" in Victoria, parts of  
NSW and West Australia.

### **Comments:**

. A downy annual with many branches.  
. The stems and leaves are spiny and densely  
hairy, dark or grey green, oval, deeply lobed,  
with wavy margins.  
. Yellow flowers with five lobes, one being  
longer than the rest, in clusters of several  
flowers, occurring in summer.  
. Berries in a burr-like calyx covered with  
slender, sharp, yellow spines in autumn.  
. Native of Mexico, now found in NSW, SA,  
Victoria, WA and Queensland.

. Animals do not eat the plant readily, too  
spiny to be palatable or edible.  
. Pigs have been known to eat the roots.  
. Roots, leaves and berries are toxic.



Picture: *Solanum rostratum* wikipedia

### **Further Reading:**

. Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1992.  
. Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.  
. Parsons and Cuthbertson.  
Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001.  
. Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004  
. Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and  
Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000