

# *Oldenlandia intonsa* (Rubiaceae), a new species from the Northern Territory

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## Summary

Halford, D. (2002). *Oldenlandia intonsa* (Rubiaceae), a new species from the Northern Territory. *Austrobaileya* 6(2): 325–327. *Oldenlandia intonsa*, a new species closely related to *O. thysanota*, is described and illustrated. Notes on habitat and distribution are provided.

Keyword: *Oldenlandia intonsa*, Rubiaceae, Northern Territory.

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## Introduction

The examination of some unidentified *Oldenlandia* collections while on a visit to the National Herbarium of Victoria (MEL) in March 2000, led to the identification of a specimen from Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory that did not match any of the previously described species of *Oldenlandia* in Australia (Halford 1992). The specimen was superficially similar to *O. thysanota* but differed in a number of key characters that are detailed below.

## Taxonomy

***Oldenlandia intonsa*** Halford, **sp. nov.** affinis maxime arcte *O. thysanota* autem indumento hispido ( $\pm$  glabro in *O. thysanota*), corollae tubo lobisque brevioribus, tubo 2.5–2.7 mm longo (5–7.5 mm in *O. thysanota*) et lobis 2.8–3 mm longis (3.5–5.5 mm in *O. thysanota*), sepalis anguste triangularis (vice linearibus) corollae marginibus loborum glabris non fimbriatus differt. **Typus:** Northern Territory. Kakadu National Park, Kakadu Highway, 1.2 km E of entrance to Mary River Ranger Station, 28 April 1990, A.V. Slee 2950 & L.A. Craven (holo: MEL)

Diffuse annual, dichotomously branched from base. Branchlets erect or ascending, slender, terete, hispidulous. Hairs simple, spreading unicellular, 0.1–0.5 mm long.

Leaves opposite, sessile, linear-lanceolate, 10–15 mm long, 1.0–1.5 mm wide, acute at apex, erect hairs on upper surface and along midrib below, with margin somewhat recurved especially towards base; midvein prominent below. Stipules fused and adnate to the leaf base; stipule-sheath 0.5–1.3 mm long, sparsely hairy, produced into single lobe, with entire margins. Inflorescences 1 or 2 times dichasially branched then monochasial cymes. Bracts small, leaf-like at nodes, up to 7 mm long. Flowers mostly in pairs at nodes of cymes, on unequal pedicels. Pedicels 0.4–4.5 mm long. Hypanthium globose, c. 0.9 mm diameter, hispidulous. Calyx lobes 4, narrowly triangular, 1.7–2.1 mm long, 0.6–0.8 mm wide, shortly connate at base; sinus between lobes acute, colleters absent. Corolla white, with faint purple spots at the base of lobes, hypocrateriform; tube 2.5–2.7 mm long, slightly wider distally, glabrous inside, glabrous or with a few hairs outside; throat glabrous, callose; lobes 4, ovate-elliptic, 2.8–3.0 mm long, c. 1.8 mm wide, with glabrous margin, adaxial surface with a sparse covering of simple hairs. Stamens exserted; filaments c. 2 mm long, erect, reflexed with age; anthers linear, c. 0.7 mm long. Style exserted from tube when mature, c. 4.0 mm long; stigma bifid; lobes filiform, c. 0.9 mm long, twisted, glandular hairy; placenta fleshy, peltately attached to septum; ovules c. 15/locule. Capsule crustaceous, globose, c. 1.8 mm diameter, hispid, persistent calyx lobes 1.7–3.5 mm long;

beak slightly raised, rounded, splitting loculicidally. Seeds squat-angular, c. 0.5 mm across, truncate at apex; testa faintly reticulate black. Fig 1.

*Specimens examined:* only known from type collection.

*Distribution and habitat:* *O. intonsa* is known only from Kakadu National Park. Recorded as occurring in pale brown sandy soil in *Eucalyptus tetradonta* forest with tall acacias.

*Phenology:* Flowers and fruits have been recorded in April.

*Affinities:* *Oldenlandia intonsa* seems most closely related to *O. thysanota* but differs from that by the hispid indumentum, its shorter corolla tube and corolla lobes, in the shape of its calyx lobes, and its glabrous corolla lobe margins. These major differences are summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1. Morphological comparison of *Oldenlandia intonsa* and *O. thysanota*.**

Character	<i>O. intonsa</i>	<i>O. thysanota</i>
indumentum	hispidulous	± glabrous
corolla tube length (mm)	2.5–2.7	5–7.5
corolla lobe length (mm)	2.8–3.0	3.5–5.5
corolla lobe margin	glabrous	fimbriate
calyx lobes (shape)	narrowly triangular	linear

*Etymology:* The specific epithet is derived from the Latin *intonsus* (unshaven) and refers to the indumentum that is conspicuous on the branchlets and fruits.

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#### Reference

- HALFORD, D. (1992). Review of the genus *Oldenlandia* L. (Rubiaceae) and related genera in Australia. *Austrobaileya* 3(4): 683–721.



**Fig. 1.** *Oldenlandia intonsa*. A. habit.  $\times 0.5$ . B. flower.  $\times 8$ . C. fruit.  $\times 8$ . A–C from *Slee & Craven 2950* (MEL), Del. W. Smith.