

THE PEA KEY - A guide to some of the more common peas in Victoria

This key is of a simple type, with two choices at each step. The correct choice leads either to the genus name or to the number of the next pair of choices. Keep going until you have identified your plant genus. This key is applicable to plants with simple/normal leaves only (some other cases too). Also, it only works in the sequence provided. This key works 100% of the time if you can determine how the stamens are attached (ie. the genus in questions 2-4 have stamens free or fused only at the very base & the genus in questions 5-6 have stamens variously fused). If you don't determine how the stamens are fused it will still work ~90% of the time. If the key is not done in sequence it will still work much of the time.

KEY

1. Stipules present at leaf axils AND bracteoles (small modified leaf) conspicuous and attached to the calyx or immediately below the calyx. *Pultenaea*

1. No stipules or stipules are free (not fused at leaf axil) OR bracteoles absent or attached below calyx. *Go to 2*

(stamens free or fused at base)

2. Bracts (small modified leaves) on peduncle. *Daviesia*

2. No peduncle bracts. *Go to 3*

3. Leaves opposite and decussate. *Eutaxia*

3. Leaves alternate, scattered or crowded. *Go to 4*

4. Standard obviously much wider than tall. Inflorescence usually in a raceme or umbel. *Dillwynia*

4. Standard not obviously much wider than tall. *Go to 5*

(stamens variously fused)

5. Leaves distichous (see Bossiaea pic); flowers yellow/orange often with red markings. *Go to 6*

5. Leaves not distichous (spirally arranged); PLUS flowers mauve/blue/purple (rarely white) *Hovea* or flowers orange *Templetonia*

6. Leaves distichous and all less than 15mm wide. *Bossiaea*

6. Largest leaves more than 15mm wide (distichous & roundish or triangular) *Platylobium*



Pultenaea Bracteole on calyx



Pultenaea Stipules at leaf axil



Bracts on peduncle

Daviesia



Eutaxia - foliage opposite (two leaves emanate from the same level on the stem, one on each side of the stem) and decussate (each pair of opposite leaves is at right angles to the pair of leaves above and below)



Dillwynia Standard much wider than tall



Platylobium - distichous foliage with wide, round or triangular leaves



Hovea - purple/mauve flowers & non-distichous foliage



Bossiaea - distichous foliage (if laid flat, leaves all lie on the same plane)