

## footnotes

- <sup>1</sup> W.T. Stearn writes that "weeds are not so much a botanical as a human psychological category within the plant kingdom." cited in King, L. Weeds of the World. Interscience, N.Y, 1966, pp 1-2.
- <sup>2</sup> The term anthropophyte is used to describe plants in this kind of relationship to people; philanthropophyte for the desirable and cultivated varieties and malanthropophyte for 'weeds'.
- <sup>3</sup> Sweet scented garlic, a native of Europe, was described by J.H.Maiden, the Director of the Botanic gardens in Sydney in the late 19th century as, "A VERY BAD WEED." (his emphasis), he goes on to say, "I do not know who will step forward and claim the honour of the introduction of this neat little, white flowering lilicaeous plant.. it was originally introduced into the Colony as an ornamental plant, and so, if it could be kept within bounds it still would be." The Weeds of NSW. Government Printers, 1899, p.1.
- <sup>4</sup> Australian Aborigines used smart weed to catch fish. The plant was pounded, thrown into a pool of water and the stupefied fish would then float to the surface and could be caught.
- <sup>5</sup> Compass plant, also known as Prickly lettuce is described by the botanists Kerner and Oliver, "the leaves of this plant markedly twist themselves to the sun, so that their leaf margins become diected upwards and downwards, with their margins directed north and south." in Maiden, op cit, p.125.
- <sup>6</sup> Peppercress was reported to have been brought to the UK from Central Europe in 1809, by the return of a group of fever stricken soldiers to Ramsgate. They were lying on mattresses stuffed with hay, amongst which were seeds of the Peppercress. The straw was then given to a farmer who ploughed it into his fields, see Auld and Medd, Weeds. Inkata, 1987. p.148.
- <sup>7</sup> Potato weed was an escape from Kew gardens, where it was on exhibit as an exotic from South America. It is also known by the name Gallant soldiers, a corruption of its proper name Galinsoga. Salisbury, Sir. E. Weeds and Aliens. Collins, 1961.
- <sup>8</sup> Ribwort, one of the plants now considered a weed is one of the plants identified by archaobotanical studies in Denmark, in the stomach contents of human remains from 2000AD. It was called Whiteman's foot by North American Indians, since the rosettes seemed to appear wherever white man had trod.
- <sup>9</sup> Its first mention was by an Arabic physician in the 10th century AD, but the modern name Dandelion comes from the french *dent-de-lion* referring to the shape of the leaves which resemble lion's teeth. Since medieval times it has been used for the treatment of liver complaints. Krutch, J.W. Herbal. Phaidon, 1976, p.212.
- <sup>10</sup> The Mallows are native to the Mediterranean region. Pythagoras wrote that it reduced the passions and cleansed the stomach and mind.
- <sup>11</sup> Fleabane, a native of North America is thought to have been brought into Europe in the 17th century, as the stuffing in a taxidermied bird, by the 1800's it was common in waste places in London and was spread along railway embankments in the 1940's with increased rail traffic. Salisbury, op cit.
- <sup>12</sup> The use of Fennel in cooking dates back to the ancient Greeks, who placed it under their bread during baking to give a fragrance to the loaf. The Romans associated it with strength and courage, mixing it into their meals. Governor King of NSW in 1798 requested of Sir Joseph Banks, that Fennel be sent with a selection of plants for cultivation. see Proceedings of the Weed Society of NSW. Vol.V 1972.
- <sup>13</sup> The name Spurge comes from the Latin *expurgate - to purge*. In the middle ages, Chaucer's character, Chanticleer recommended it to dispel bad dreams, "by purging you below and also above." Krutch, op cit p.4.. J.H. Maiden, an early Director of the Botanic gardens in Sydney, speaks of Spurges medicinal use in Sydney in the late 1800's, "For some years past the juice of this little plant has been recommended by Sydney physicians of the highest standing for the treatment of Rodent ulcer and I have seen many cures affected by its means." J.H. Maiden The Weeds of NSW. The NSW Agricultural Gazette, 1920, p.56.
- <sup>14</sup> Whether Sow Thistle is an introduced species or a native to Australia is debated by various writers. Tim Low in Wild Foods in Australia, says Plant books invariably list Sow thistles as an introduced species, but there are so many records of Aborigines eating their leaves it seems certain that some populations are native. The hungry explorers Stuart and Gray ate the leaves as do many peasant communities in Asia and Africa today". p.124.
- <sup>15</sup> The government botanist of Queensland is recorded as remarking of the Green Amaranth that it is, "a valuable vegetable.. an excellent substitute for spinach, being far superior to much of the leaves of the white beet sold for spinach in Sydney...as it becomes more widely known, it is sure to be popular, except amongst persons who may consider it beneath their dignity to have anything to do with so common a weeds." cited in The Useful Plants of Australia, by J.H. Maiden Compendium, 1889. p.6.



