

Do you know the difference between these three yellow button flowers? ... Chris Morrissey

These three flowers are all of a different genus but have similar flower shape and are in the *Asteraceae* family.

Coronidium scorpioides, Button Everlasting. *Korone*—crown, *idion*—short, referring to the remnant of the *pappas scorpioides*, or cobwebby hairs.

This widespread plant (formerly called *Helichrysum scorpioides*) is a perennial with a rosette of grey-green leaves, 3-9 cm long and up to 1 cm wide. They continue alternately up the hairy flower stem which grows to 30 cm high. The single button-like flowerhead, 2-3 cm across, is yellow with tubular florets encircling stiff papery bracts. The inner bracts are yellow, the outer ones usually dark brown. It flowers in spring and grows in moist open forest, heathland and woodland.



Button Everlasting

Craspedia variabilis, Variable Billy-buttons. *Craspedon*—edge or border, referring to the woolly fringes on the leaves of the type specimen, *variabilis*—variable.

This is a perennial herb with a rosette of hairy leaves 5-13 cm long and up to 2 cm wide, which become sparse, small and narrow as they clasp the flower stem. The single, yellow, compound flower head is almost spherical and consists of 40-120 tubular florets. There are no papery bracts on this flower. It flowers in spring and summer in the heathland.



Variable Billy-buttons

Leiocarpa gatesii, Wrinkled Buttons. *Leios*—smooth, *carpos*—fruit, *gatesii*—named after Rev A.C.F. Gates, a plant collector in Victoria between 1890 and 1930.

This special plant is endemic to Lorne and Anglesea and is rare, except after fire. It is listed as vulnerable at both state and national levels. It was first discovered near Lorne in 1921. However, it was not seen for many years and thought to be extinct until rediscovered by two ANGAIR members, Mary White and Ted Faggetter in 1984, the year after the 1983 bush fires.

Wrinkled Buttons is a short-lived perennial up to 20 cm high. It has very narrow leaves to 2.5 cm long, sparsely hairy and cobwebby above and densely cottony below, with wavy edges. The flower stems are white-cottony and leafy, branched at or near the base. Tiny yellow button-like flowers up to 1.5 cm across consist of tubular florets only. It grows in heathy forests, and flowers from December to June.



Wrinkled Buttons

References:

Flowers of Anglesea and Aireys Inlet edited by Margaret MacDonald
Flora of the Otway Plain and Ranges Volume 2 by Enid Mayfield



Seen at Allen Noble Sanctuary recently...