

# Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

## B. Legumes

### 12. Stylo

#### b. *Stylosanthes humilis* H.B.K. (Townsville stylo)

#### cv. Gordon

Reg. No. B-12b-2

Registered November 1968

*Published in the 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. of the Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars, 1972.*

#### Origin

Natural occurrences at Darwin, N.T. Seed of Gordon was derived from a single plant of the Darwin collection grown in a spaced plant experiment at the CSIRO Pasture Research Station near Townsville in 1964. Comparative sward trials with other naturally occurring lines were subsequently conducted by CSIRO and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries at other sites in north Queensland. Dr. D. Cameron selected it for its late-flowering habit and its good production compared with prostrate types.

Submitted for registration by the CSIRO Division of Tropical Pastures, Pastoral Research Laboratory, Townsville. Breeders' seed held by the CSIRO Division of Tropical Pastures, Brisbane. Recommended by the Queensland Herbage Plant Liaison Committee for registration. Registered November 1968.

#### Morphological description

An erect herbaceous annual which is very similar morphologically to cv. Lawson.

#### Agronomic characters (2)

Gordon is a late-maturity type which is adapted to tropical areas with an annual rainfall of 1130 mm or more, and with a marked dry season. Its general agronomic characters are similar to those of cv. Lawson. In areas with a long growing season its total production is superior to that of the cv. Lawson. More than 90% of the seed set may be impermeable but most of this hard seed softens gradually over the dry season so that the seed germinates freely in the following wet season (1). In the Northern Territory, however, it was found that the seed does not soften satisfactorily when stored in bags during the dry season. For this reason establishment may be more difficult than with ordinary commercial Townsville stylo; also seed production is not as high (3). It nodulates freely with indigenous 'cowpea-type' rhizobia or commercial cowpea inoculant.

#### References

1. Cameron, D.F. (1967). Hardseededness and seed dormancy of Townsville lucerne (*Stylosanthes humilis*) selections. *Aust. J. Exp. Agric. Anim. Husb.* **7**, 237-40.
2. Cameron, D.F. (1968). Personal communication. CSIRO Div. Trop. Pastures, Townsville.
3. Harrison, P.G. (1971). Personal communication. Anim. Ind. Agric. Branch, N.T. Admin., Darwin.