

Botanical name

Acacia deficiens Maslin (to be described in a forthcoming issue of Nuytsia)

The botanical name is derived from the Latin *deficiens* (wanting or lacking) and refers to the ends of the branchlets which are devoid of phyllodes.

Common name

None known.

Characteristic features

Branchlets +/- spiny, devoid of phyllodes at their extremities. *Phyllodes* rather small, few and confined to base of terminal branchlets, with one longitudinal nerve on each face. *Heads* globular, borne towards the ends of the branchlets at nodes devoid of phyllodes; young buds light orange or red. *Pods* flat but prominently rounded over the seeds, thinly chartaceous and very brittle. *Funicle* of seed not expanded into an aril.

Description

Habit. Domed or spreading *shrubs* 0.5- 1.5(-2) m tall, sometimes forming prostrate mats 0.1-0.3 m high (these can occur in the same population as more erect forms), spreading to (0.6-)1-2 m wide, 2-3-branched at or just above ground level.

Bark. Light grey, slightly rough at the base of the main stems.

Branches. Dividing into numerous, straight, rigid, ascending to erect, +/- spiny, glabrous, green or sub-glaucous, +/- ribless branchlets which are devoid of phyllodes at their extremities (where the flower-heads occur), outside the Kalannie region the branchlets are occasionally narrowly winged or flexuose.

Phyllodes. Few at the base of the terminal branchlets, absent from the inflorescence-bearing nodes at ends of branchlets, lanceolate to narrowly oblong-elliptic, infrequently linear, mostly 1-2 cm long, 1.5-4 mm wide, glabrous, green to sub-glaucous; with 1 obscure *longitudinal nerve* (midrib) on each face, lateral nerves absent; apices obtuse to acute, mucronulate.

Heads. Mostly single (rarely 2) at uppermost nodes on branchlets (these nodes are devoid of phyllodes), on rudimentary racemes 0.5-1 mm long, globular, golden, normally 20-30-flowered; *young buds* light orange or red; *peduncles* 4-9 mm long, recurved when in fruit, glabrous.

Flowers. 5-merous; *sepals* free.

Legumes. Narrowly oblong, prominently rounded over seeds, 1.5-4 cm long, 4-6 mm wide, thinly chartaceous and very brittle, glabrous.

Seeds. Normally transverse in the pods, 3-4 mm long, 1.5-2 mm wide, dull, black; *funicle* not expanded into an aril.

Taxonomy

Related species. *Acacia deficiens* is not closely related to any species within the Kalannie region.

Superficially similar species. In a general way *A. deficiens* may sometimes bear a superficial resemblance to *A. erinacea* which is readily recognized by its wide-spreading ultimate branchlets, united sepals (difficult to see without a microscope) and thicker, broader pods.

Variants. Variants with narrowly winged branchlets and atypically narrow pods are known from the central and southern wheatbelt (see Maslin, in press).

Distribution

Scattered distribution in south-west Western Australia from Kalannie south to near Lake Grace and east to near Mt Andrew (about 90 km south west of Balladonia) and Coolgardie.

Acacia deficiens is rare in the Kalannie region (known from a single localized population).

Habitat

Over its range this species grows in loam, clay-loam, clay, sandy loam and sand in open shrub mallee and woodland with various *Eucalyptus* species on flat or gentle undulating plains.

In the Kalannie region it grows in red-brown loam on a low rise in a mallee eucalypt community.

Recorded from the following Kalannie region Land Management Unit. Red Brown Earth.

Conservation status

Although *A. deficiens* is rare within the Kalannie region in the broader context is not considered rare or endangered.

Flowering

Over its geographic range *A. deficiens* flowers from September to early November.

Plants in the Kalannie region were in bud (just reaching anthesis) in early September 1997.

Fruiting

Over its geographic range this species produces pods with mature seeds in December.

Fruiting material has not been collected from the Kalannie region.

Biological features

No information available.

Propagation

No information available.

Revegetation

Acacia deficiens would appear to have relatively low value for revegetation in the Kalannie region. It could, however, be included in seed mixes where biodiversity representation for the low shrub stratum is required.

Utilisation

Biodiversity plantings. See Revegetation above.

Reference

Maslin, B.R. (in press). *Acacia*. In *Flora of Australia* vol. 11 (CSIRO, Melbourne: Australia.)