

Botanical name

Acacia inceana subsp. *latifolia* Maslin (to be described in a forthcoming issue of *Nuytsia*)

The species name commemorates Walter Hokinshed Ince who collected the type specimen in the early part of the twentieth century.

The subspecies name is derived from the Latin *latus* (broad) and *folium* (leaf) and refers to the wide phyllodes that serve to distinguish this subspecies from the other two subspecies of *A. inceana*.

Common name

None known.

Characteristic features

Phyllodes +/- linear, narrowed towards base, 3-4(-6) mm wide, flat, straight to shallowly curved, obscurely multi-nerved, curved-acuminate at apices; *gland* (obscure) 4-13 mm above pulvinus. *Heads* +/- globular, on short peduncles. *Flowers* 4-merous. *Pods* thin-textured, light brown. Saline *habitats*.

Description

Habit. Spreading, rounded, multi-stemmed *shrubs* growing to obconic, single-stemmed *small trees* 2-4 m tall with crowns sub-dense, spreading 2-5 m across and occupying about 30% of the total plant height, sparingly divided at ground level, the main stems slightly crooked and much-branched especially towards their extremities.

Bark. Grey, fibrous on main stems, smooth on upper branches.

Branchlets. Glabrous or sometimes +/- sparsely appressed hairy at extremities or within axil of phyllodes, grey.

Phyllodes. Linear to linear-oblongate or linear-elliptic, narrowed towards the base, flat, mostly 4-7 cm long, 3-4(-6) mm wide, ascending to erect, straight to very shallowly incurved or recurved, dull to slightly shiny, glabrous (except sparsely appressed hairy when young), dark green; *longitudinal nerves* numerous, indistinct and close together; *apices* narrowed to delicately curved-acuminate, brown, hard, non-pungent to coarsely pungent tips; *glands* inconspicuous, normally 1 (2 on a few phyllodes) on upper margin of phyllode 4-13 mm above the pulvinus.

Heads. Single or paired (rarely 3) within the axil of phyllodes, globular to slightly obloid, 7-8 mm long and 7 mm wide when fresh, bright light- mid-golden, 15-25-flowered; *peduncles* 3-5 mm long when in flower, can reach 7 mm when in fruit, glabrous.

Flowers. 4-merous; sepals free.

Pods. Linear, 5-10 cm long, 3-4 mm wide, firmly chartaceous to thinly coriaceous, shallowly curved, light brown, glabrous.

Seeds. Longitudinal in the pods, 4-6 mm long, 2-2.5 mm wide, sub-shiny, dark brown; *aril* white.

Taxonomy

Subspecies. *Acacia inceana* comprises three subspecies, two of which occur in the Kalannie region, namely, subsp. *conformis* and subsp. *latifolia*. These subspecies are most readily distinguished from one another by their phyllodes, perfectly terete in subsp. *inceana*, flat to sub-terete and 1-2 mm wide in subsp. *conformis*, flat and 3-6 mm wide in subsp. *latifolia*.

Related species. *Acacia inceana* together with *A. lineolata* (not represented in the Kalannie region) and *A. enervia* constitute the "*A. enervia* group", see Cowan and Maslin (1995) for discussion.

In the Kalannie region subsp. *latifolia* is most likely to be confused with *A. enervia* subsp. *explicata* and care is needed to ensure that plants are correctly named. Subspecies *explicata* is most reliably distinguished from subsp. *latifolia* by its phyllode glands which, when present, are situated at the distal end of the pulvinus and by its 5-merous flowers; however, these are cryptic characters and somewhat difficult to see without the use of magnification; subsp. *explicata* has slightly narrower pods than those found on subsp. *latifolia*.

Distribution

Acacia inceana var. *latifolia* occurs in a restricted area in the vicinity of Jibberding, east of Wubin. Further field studies are needed to determine if it is more widely distributed in the Kalannie region (the suspicion is that it might be).

Habitat

This subspecies occurs on red-brown sandy loam on slight rises around the margins of saline areas dominated by Samphires.

Recorded from the following Kalannie region Land Management Unit. Colluvial Flat-Earth.

Conservation status

This species has been recommended for inclusion of the *Declared Rare and Priority List* of the Department of Conservation and Land Management as a Priority 1 taxon.

Priority 1 - Poorly Known Taxa. 'Taxa which are known from one or a few (generally <5) populations which are under threat, either due to small population size, or being on lands under immediate threat, e.g. road verges, urban areas, farmland, active mineral leases, etc., or the plants are under threat, e.g. from disease, grazing by feral animals, etc. May include taxa with threatened populations on protected lands. Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in urgent need for further survey.'

Flowering

Flowers in August and September.

Fruiting

In early December 1996 plants in the Kalannie region were either sterile or with very few mature seeds. This suggests that mature seeds would be present in November.

Biological features

No information available.

Propagation

Propagate from seed.

Revegetation

This subspecies probably has scope for use in regenerating saline sites but further work is needed to accurately ascertain its revegetation potential. Nevertheless,

indications are that it is likely to have a utilisation potential similar to that which is given for subsp. *conformis*.

Utilisation

Salinity control. See Revegetation above.

Shade and shelter. On account of its dense crown this subspecies has potential for providing shade and shelter for stock and wildlife in moderately saline areas.

Reference

Cowan, R.S. and Maslin, B.R. (1995). *Acacia* Miscellany 15. Five groups of microneurous species of *Acacia*, mostly from Western Australia (Leguminosae: Mimosoideae: section Plurinerves). *Nuytsia* 10(2): 205-254.