

Botanical name.

Acacia affin. *quadrimarginea*

The taxon described here has affinities to *A. quadrimarginea* but the nature of the relationship needs yet to be assessed.

Common name

None known.

Characteristic features

Obconic, glabrous *trees* 3-4 m tall. *Phyllodes* falcately recurved, spreading widely, slightly shiny, dark green, finely multi-nerved; *apices* acuminate to caudate; *marginal nerves* discrete and light brown. *Spikes* on short peduncles. *Pods* curved, firmly coriaceous-crustaceous to sub-woody, the margins not winged as in *A. quadrimarginea*. *Seeds* large. *Granite rock* habitat.

Description

Habit. Obconic, glabrous *trees* 3-4 m tall, trunks about 30 cm in diameter at ground level, crowns flat-topped to sub-rounded and spreading 4-6 m across.

Bark. Grey, longitudinally fissured and fibrous on trunk and main branches.

Branchlets. Often pendulous.

Phyllodes. Falcately recurved, 8-10(-12) cm long, 4-8 mm wide, widely spreading, slightly shiny, dark green; *longitudinal nerves* numerous, fine and close together, the central nerve often slightly more pronounced than the rest; *marginal nerves* discrete and light brown; *apices* acuminate to caudate and innocuous.

Spikes. 1-3 within axil of phyllodes, occasionally arranged on rudimentary, 1-branched racemes 0.5-1 mm long; *peduncles* 1-2 mm long when in flower but up to 5 mm long when in fruit; buds resinous.

Flowers. 5-merous.

Pods. Shallowly to prominently curved, firmly coriaceous-crustaceous to sub-woody, the margins not winged as in *A. quadrimarginea*.

Seeds. Oblong to elliptic, 7.5-8 mm long, 5.5-8 mm wide, slightly shiny, blackish; aril terminal, small.

Taxonomy

Related species. Until now plants of this taxon had been referred to its close relative, *A. quadrimarginea*. However, *A. quadrimarginea* is readily recognized by its very distinctive quadrangular pods (the margin of each pod valve has a broad wing that is perpendicular to the face of valve). These wings are absent from the pods of *A. affin. quadrimarginea*. These two species are widely distributed in the Arid Zone outside the Kalannie region (*A. quadrimarginea* does not occur in the region) and further collections of them are needed (especially flowering material) before *A. affin. quadrimarginea* is formally described.

Distribution

This taxon has a scattered distribution from near Gascoyne Junction in the Murchison district, south through Mount Magnet to the northern perimeter of the Kalannie region.

Habitat

Restricted to granite rocks.

Recorded from the following Kalannie region Land Management Unit. Shallow Soil over Granite.

Conservation status

Although this species is rare within the Kalannie region in the broader context is not considered rare or endangered.

Flowering

The relatively few collections to hand show this species as flowering in June and July, however, further sampling may well extend this known range.

There is no information available regarding flowering of the Kalannie region plants.

Fruiting

Over the geographic range of this species pods with mature seeds have been collected from September to October.

Plants from the Kalannie region were with well-formed, but still green, seeds in early September 1997. In the previous December these same plants had pods with a few mature seeds persisting.

Biological features

Longevity. Probably long-lived (more than 25 years)

Growth characteristics. Probably rather slow-growing.

Propagation

No information available.

Revegetation

This taxon is rare in the Kalannie region and would appear to have little revegetation value.

Utilisation

Amenity planting. Not known in cultivation but this hardy, long-lived species with its attractive growth form could be useful in amenity plantings as a provider of shade for arid and semi-arid areas.