

**Botanical name**

*Acacia* affin. *resinosa*

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

**Common name**

None known.

**Characteristic features**

*Phyllodes* short, terete, finely many nerved, abruptly contracted at the apex to a minute point. *Heads* sessile. *Seeds* mottled; *aril* bright yellow.

**Description**

**Habit.** Multi-stemmed, rounded *shrubs* 0.3-1 m tall and 1-3 m wide, crowns dense with the foliage extending to ground level.

**Bark.** Light grey and smooth.

**Branchlets.** Minutely appressed hairy at branchlet extremities but the hairs are embedded in resin and can be easily overlooked without magnification.

**Phyllodes.** Terete, 2-5 cm long, 0.5-1 mm in diameter, erect, straight to shallowly incurved, dull, green, glabrous or minutely and obscurely appressed-hairy in shallow grooves between the nerves; *longitudinal nerves* numerous, the nerves +/- flat-topped and clearly broader than the darker coloured internerve space, resinous but not viscid; *apices* abruptly narrowed to a minute, innocuous point.

**Heads.** Mostly paired (sometimes single) within axil of phyllodes, sessile (to 1 mm long and hairy in fruit), globular, 4-5 mm in diameter when fresh, bright light golden, prolific and showy, 15-20-flowered; *buds* resinous.

**Flowers.** 5 merous; sepals united.

**Pods.** Linear to sub-moniliform, curved upon dehiscence, 3-5 cm long, 2-2.5 mm wide, thinly coriaceous, glabrous, light brown, resinous (but not viscid)

**Seeds.** Longitudinal in the pods, 2-2.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, slightly shiny, yellow-brown mottled dark brown; *aril* conspicuous, terminal, bright yellow.

**Taxonomy**

The taxonomic status of this poorly known taxon requires further investigation and in the absence of such studies it is considered unwise to formally describe the taxon.

**Related species.** Its affinities appear to lie with *A. resinosa* on account of both species having terete, multi-nerved, innocuous phyllodes, globular, resinous flower-heads, resinous branchlets and very similar pods and seeds; at one site in the Kalannie region the two species grew together. *Acacia resinosa* is most obviously distinguished from *A. affin. resinosa* by its taller stature (1-3 m tall), longer peduncles (4-6 mm long in Kalannie region plants), longer phyllodes (4-8 cm long in Kalannie region plants) and white seed aril. Although phenological data is somewhat incomplete there may also be flowering-time differences between these two taxa: *A. affin. resinosa* appearing to have a short, defined flowering period (July - August) and *A. resinosa* likely to have at least sporadic flowering in most months of the year (most records are for the June - December period).

**Distribution**

*Acacia* affin. *resinosa* is apparently rare and is currently known only from a small area in the north-eastern part of the Kalannie region. Where it occurred it was

abundant along a roadverge (with *A. resinosa*) and was also regenerating well in a nearby area that had been previously cropped for 20 years.

### **Habitat**

Grows at the break of slope in the transition zone between sandplain slopes and colluvial flats.

**Recorded from the following Kalannie region Land Management Unit.** Spillway sand.

### **Conservation status**

This species has been recommended for inclusion on 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**

Plants in the Kalannie region flowered in July and August 1996.

### **Fruiting**

Most pods had dehisced on plants collected from the Kalannie region in early December 1996, indicating that mature seeds would have been present in November, at least in this region.

### **Biological features**

No information available.

### **Propagation**

No information available.

### **Revegetation**

*Acacia affin. resinosa* would be a good species for growing as an understory in seasonally wet areas and on sandplain seepages and would therefore be effective in salinity control and soil stabilisation on these sites.

### **Utilisation**

**Salinity control.** See Revegetation above.

**Erosion control.** See Revegetation above.

**Wildlife refuge.** On account of its dense crown that extends to the ground *A. affin. resinosa* has the potential for offering good protection for small wildlife; it would be particularly effective in this regard when individuals grow close together.