

**Botanical name**

*Acacia restiacea* Benth., London J. Bot. 1: 323 (1842)

The botanical name is derived from *Restio* (a genus in the family Restionaceae) and the Latin suffix *-aceus* (resembling). The growth form of this species resembles that of some species of Restionaceae.

**Common name**

None known.

**Characteristic features**

Largely leafless, rush-like *shrubs*. *Heads* globular, arranged in racemes and enclosed when young by prominent brown bracts. *Pods* +/- moniliform, dark brown to blackish.

**Description**

**Habit.** Multi-stemmed, glabrous *shrubs* or *sub-shrubs* 0.3-1.5(-2) m tall and 0.5-3 m across, normally lacking phyllodes; *stems* rush-like, terete, finely striate, green (sometimes glaucous); bipinnate foliage sometimes present at base of stems.

**Stipules.** Conspicuous on new growth.

**Phyllodes.** Rarely seen.

**Heads.** Arranged in 4-12-branched racemes 10-60 mm long and enclosed when young by prominent brown bracts, globular, golden, 10-11 mm in diameter when fresh, 25-35-flowered; *raceme axes* slender and flexuose; *peduncles* 4-11 mm long, slender, glabrous.

**Flowers.** Mostly 5-merous; calyx very short, the sepals shortly and irregularly united.

**Pods.** More or less moniliform, 2-8.5 cm long, 3-3.5 mm wide, thinly coriaceous, dark brown to blackish.

**Seeds.** Longitudinal in the pods, ovate-elliptic, 3-4 mm long, turgid, slightly shiny, black, aril conspicuous.

**Taxonomy**

**Related species.** The relatives of this species are unknown.

**Distribution**

Widespread in southwest Western Australia where it occurs from north of the Murchison River south to Chidlow and near Merredin; it is also recorded from Hospital Rocks (about 90 km west of Menzies) and with an early collection from Mt William in the Darling Range.

*Acacia restiacea* is uncommon in the Kalannie region.

**Habitat**

Over its geographic range this species grows in a variety of habitats but commonly in gravelly or rocky loam in woodland or heath, or sandy clay associated with granite outcrops.

Confined to granite rocks in the Kalannie region.

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

### **Conservation status**

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

### **Flowering**

Over its geographic range *A. restiacea* flowers from late June to October.

Plants in the Kalannie region were just ending flowering in early September 1997.

### **Fruiting**

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

There is no information available on the time of seed-set for plants in the Kalannie region.

### **Biological features**

**Growth characteristics.** Can withstand extended moist or dry periods according to Elliot and Jones (1982).

### **Propagation**

Propagate from seeds or cuttings according to Elliot and Jones (1982).

Pruning promotes a bushier growth if required (Elliot and Jones 1982).

### **Revegetation**

*Acacia restiacea* 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, especially for granite rock areas.

### **Utilisation**

**Biodiversity plantings.** See Revegetation above.

**Ornamental.** Not widely cultivated but on account of its very showy flower-heads this dwarf, leafless shrub could be a useful ornamental for semi-arid gardens.

### **Reference**

Elliot, W.R. and Jones, D.L. (1982). *Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation*. vol. 2. (Lothian Publishing Company).