

Botanical name

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

The botanical name is derived from the Greek word *synoria* (borderland), and refers to the geographical location of this species being on the boundary of the wheatbelt region and the arid zone.

Common name

Goodlands Wattle. This common name is applied to *A. synoria* because current indications are that it is confined to the Goodlands Landcare District.

Characteristic features

Phyllodes terete, long and slender, with 8 longitudinal nerves (each separated by a distinct longitudinal groove); *apices* acuminate-caudate. *Heads* sub-globular to obloid, on short peduncles; buds resinous. *Pods* terete, long and narrow, thinly textured, finely longitudinally nerved. Seeds obscurely mottled; *aril* lemon yellow. *Granite rock* habitat. *Summer flowering*.

Description

Habit. *Shrubs* 2-4 m tall maturing to *trees* 5 m tall. The shrubs are obconic (rounded when very young), dividing at ground level into 2-7, fairly straight, ascending to erect main stems (3-6 cm diameter at their base). The trees are single-stemmed or sparingly divided at ground level, trunks commonly curved and up to 25 cm diameter at their base, crowns dense, 2-4 m wide and occupying 25-50% of the total plant height.

Bark. Grey, smooth on stems and branches but becoming longitudinally fissured and +/- fibrous on trunks of oldest trees.

Branchlets. Glabrous, red-brown at extremities.

Phyllodes. Terete, (5-)6-9(10.5) cm long, 0.7-1 mm wide, slender, not especially rigid, erect, mostly shallowly incurved, sometimes resinous (but not viscid), glabrous (except pulvinus), light green; *longitudinal nerves* 8 and each separated by a distinct, longitudinal groove; *apices* acuminate-caudate with delicate, slightly curved, innocuous to somewhat pungent, brown points; *pulvinus* orange, hairy on the upper surface.

Heads. 1-2 within axil of phyllodes, sub-globular to obloid, 5-6 mm long and 4-5 mm wide when fresh, light golden; *young buds* resinous; *peduncles* glabrous, 2-5(-6) mm long.

Flowers. 5-merous; *sepals* free.

Pods. Terete, slightly constricted between the seeds, 5-9(-10) cm long, 1-2 mm wide, pendulous, straight to shallowly curved, thinly coriaceous-crustaceous, glabrous, light brown, finely longitudinally nerved.

Seeds. Oblong to elliptic, 2.5-3 mm long, 1-1.5 mm wide, shiny, light brown with obscure yellowish mottlings; *aril* terminal, almost as long as the seed, lemon yellow.

Taxonomy

Related species. This species does not appear to have any particularly close relatives. Its long, 8-nerved phyllodes (which are deeply grooved between the nerves) are similar to those found in *A. aulacophylla* and *A. sessilispica*, neither of which occur in the Kalannie region.

Distribution

Known from only two localities in the extreme northeast of the Kalannie region (it was locally abundant at these localities) and from south of Mount Gibson, about 30 km to the north.

Habitat

Both the Kalannie region populations and the one from south of Mount Gibson occurred on granite rocks. In the Kalannie region, however, it did also grow on yellow/brown gravelly sand on the edge of a gravel pit, but it is probable that the seed had been washed downslope to this site from a granite rock higher up (it had not established in the surrounding vegetation).

Recorded from the following Kalannie region Land Management Units. Shallow Soil over Granite; Shallow Soil over Laterite.

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

Plants of this species flower from October to December.

Plants of this species flower from an early age (from when they are only about 1 m tall).

Fruiting

Some plants from the Kalannie region had a few pods persisting in December 1996 (when the plants were in flower); these pods were presumably the result of the previous years' flowering event and much of the seed was aborted. Further studies are needed to accurately determine the fruiting phenology of this species.

Biological features

No information available.

Propagation

No information available.

Revegetation

Acacia synoria is well-suited for stabilising soils associated with granite outcrops. Although under natural conditions the species is found primarily on granitic soils it is probably worth trialling for revegetation purposes on a range of loam and sandy clay soils. Its growth form suggests that *A. synoria* could be useful as a windbreak and for providing shade and shelter for stock and wildlife. Maximum benefit for these purposes would be derived if individuals are planted close together.

Utilisation

Soil stabilisation. See Revegetation above.

Shade and shelter. See Revegetation above.

Windbreak. See Revegetation above.

Wildlife refuge. See Revegetation above.