

Botanical name

Acacia consanguinea Cowan & Maslin, Nuytsia 10: 243 (1995)

The botanical name is derived from the Latin *consanguineus* (kindred, related by blood) and refers to the close relationship of this species to members of the "A. fragilis group", especially *A. uncinella* and *A. fragilis* (see Cowan and Maslin 1995: 237-249 for discussion).

Common name

Kindred Wattle.

Characteristic features

Densely flowered shrubs with smooth, light grey *bark* extending from ground level to tips of branchlets. *Phyllodes* short, terete, smooth, straight to shallowly incurved but shallowly recurved to uncinata at the innocuous to coarsely pungent, acute, glabrous tips, obscurely 8-nerved; *pulvinus* +/- smooth, flared slightly at its base and minutely hairy on its upper surface. *Heads* globular and on short peduncles.

Description

Habit. Commonly sub-rounded or obconic *shrubs* 0.4-1.5 m tall and the same or slightly more across and with the crowns occupying 20-40% of the total plant height, in open sites (such as road verges) plants can be domed with the crown extending to the ground, dividing at ground level into 4 to many slender, spreading-erect stems.

Bark. Light grey and smooth from base of stems to tips of branchlets.

Branchlets. Terete, +/- nerveless, (often sparsely) appressed-hairy but soon glabrous.

Phyllodes. Terete, 2-4.5(-7) cm long, 1-1.5 mm in diameter, ascending to erect, commonly shallowly incurved, sometimes straight or shallowly sigmoid, smooth, dull to slightly shiny, glabrous, green; *longitudinal nerves* 8, obscure, widely spaced; *apices* gradually narrowed to short, acute, shallowly recurved to uncinata, glabrous, brown, innocuous to coarsely pungent tips (sometimes almost sharply pungent when dry); *pulvinus* 1.5-2 mm long, +/- smooth, appressed-hairy on upper surface, flared slightly at the base.

Heads. 2-3 within axil of phyllodes, globular, 9-10 mm in diameter when fresh, bright light- to mid-golden, prolific and showy, 14-29-flowered; *peduncles* 2-5 mm long (often obscured by the anthers at anthesis), glabrous or +/- appressed-hairy.

Flowers. 5-merous; *sepals* free.

Pods. Linear, undulate, strongly raised on alternating sides over adjacent seeds and +/- constricted between them, 3-6 cm long, 2.5-3 mm wide, thinly chartaceous, slightly curved, glabrous, light brown.

Seeds. Longitudinal in the pods, about 2 mm long, 1.5-2 mm wide, crested around periphery, glossy, yellowish grey-brown mottled with dark brown specks; *aril* creamy white.

Taxonomy

Related species. *Acacia consanguinea* together with *A. assimilis*, *A. aulacophylla*, *A. fragilis*, *A. ophiolithica* and *A. uncinella* constitutes the "A. fragilis group", see Cowan and Maslin (1995) for discussion. Three taxa from this group occur in the Kalannie region, namely, *A. assimilis* subsp. *assimilis*, *A. consanguinea* and *A. fragilis*.

Acacia consanguinea is very closely related to *A. fragilis* and these two species sometimes grow together in the Kalannie region. *Acacia fragilis* can be distinguished

from *A. consanguinea* by its pulvinus which is longer, transversely wrinkled (at least when dry), glabrous, and not flared at its base. Also, in *A. fragilis* the upper branches and branchlets are shiny, brown and lenticellular (dull, light grey and not lenticellular in *A. consanguinea*) and its phyllodes are generally longer and have long-tapered delicate tips which are hairy at least when young. *Acacia consanguinea* is also closely related to *A. uncinella* and *A. subflexuosa*, neither of which occur in the Kalannie region.

Variants. Over its geographic range *A. consanguinea* shows limited morphological variation.

Distribution

Restricted to south-west Western Australia where it is locally common from Muntadgin east to near Coolgardie. Outlying populations occur near Wialki and Kalannie.

Acacia consanguinea is not common in the Kalannie region.

Habitat

In its main area of occurrence *A. consanguinea* grows in sand, sandy loam or sandy clay in heath or scrub.

In the Kalannie region it occurs on light brown sand or hard brownish yellow sandy loam on the side of a low slope. It regenerates naturally in open, disturbed sites such as roadverges.

Recorded from the following Kalannie region Land Management Unit.
Pediment.

Conservation status

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

Flowering

Over its geographic range *A. consanguinea* flowers from mid-August to October.

In early September 1997 the Kalannie region plants were at peak flowering.

Fruiting

Over the geographic range of this species pods with mature seeds have been collected in December.

Pod crops were sparse on plants collected from the Kalannie region in early December 1996.

Biological features

No information available.

Propagation

No information available.

Revegetation

Suitable for inclusion in biodiversity plantings as part of the low shrub stratum. It also has some potential for erosion control on Pediments. Under natural conditions the species was shown to regenerate well in an area where grazing had been excluded, on land that had previously been cropped for 20 years.

Utilisation

Soil stabilisation. See Revegetation above.

Biodiversity plantings. See Revegetation above.

Horticulture and amenity plantings. On account of its prolific flowering this species may have some potential for horticulture and as an ornamental for semi-arid 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.