

Botanical name

Acacia daviesioides C.Gardner, J. Roy. Soc. W. Australia 27: 173 (1942)

The botanical name is derived from *Daviesia* (a genus in the family Leguminosae) and the Greek suffix *-oides* (like). Some species of *Daviesia* have phyllodes that are continuous with the stems, similar to those which occur in this *Acacia*.

Common name

None known.

Characteristic features

Small *shrubs* with phyllodes continuous with the striate stems. *Free portion of the phyllodes* flat to terete, 2-10(-20) mm long, rigid and pungent. *Heads* globular, on short peduncles.

Description

Habit. Much-branched *shrubs* 0.3-1 m tall and 0.5-2 m across; *stems* straight or sometimes zig-zag, terete or sometimes angled, striate by fine ribs (the ribs smooth or sometimes pimpled), glabrous, green to glaucous, ending in hard, spinose or sub-spinose points.

Stipules. Not spiny, 1-3 mm long.

Phyllodes. Continuous with the stems, sometimes decurrent and forming narrow wings at base of stems or on regrowth plants; *free portion of phyllodes* flat (with the upper margin widened and 2-nerved) to pentagonal or terete, 2-10(-20) mm long, rigid, shallowly recurved to straight, glabrous, green to glaucous; *longitudinal nerves* 5 and prominent; *apices* narrowed to a sharply pungent point; *gland* 1-2 mm above base of phyllode.

Heads. 1-3 within axil of phyllodes (on rudimentary racemes), globular, 9-10 mm in diameter when fresh, light golden, 15-24-flowered; *peduncles* 3-10 mm long, recurved from base when in fruit, glabrous.

Flowers. Mostly 5-merous; *sepals* variably united.

Pods. Linear, raised on alternating sides over adjacent seeds, straight-edged or slightly constricted between the seeds, (4-)5-8 cm long, 3-5 mm wide, thinly coriaceous-crustaceous, glabrous, pruinose when young.

Seeds. Longitudinal in the pods, 2.5-3 mm long, 1.5-2 mm wide, glossy, black; *aril* large, greyish white.

Taxonomy

Related species. *Acacia daviesioides* is related to *A. cerastes* (restricted to the Mount Gibson area, just north of the Kalannie region) which has twisted stems and rudimentary, non-pungent phyllodes - see Maslin(1995) for further discussion.

Variants. Some specimens, including the type, have zig-zag branches with tuberculate ribs. Mostly, however, the branches are +/- straight and the ribs smooth.

Distribution

Restricted to Western Australia where it extends from near Mingenew southeast to the Ballidu-Kalannie area. Additionally, there are outliers at Jingemarra Station (about 200 km northeast of Mingenew) and near Mt Jackson (about 200 km east of Kalannie).

Acacia daviesioides is not especially common in the Kalannie region; it is found in the northwest of the region.

Habitat

Over its geographic range this species grows in sand, loam and sandy clay, often with gravel.

Recorded from the following Kalannie region Land Management Units. Sand over Gravel; Pediment; Shallow Soil over Laterite.

Conservation status

Not considered rare or endangered.

Flowering

Over its geographic range *A. daviesioides* flowers from June to September (sometimes plants retaining some flowers until October).

Plants in the Kalannie region were commencing flowering in late June 1997.

Fruiting

Over its geographic range this species produces pods with mature seeds in December.

There is no information on the fruiting phenology of plants from the Kalannie region.

Biological features

No information available.

Propagation

Propagate from seed.

Revegetation

Acacia daviesioides 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.

Utilisation

Biodiversity plantings. See Revegetation above.

Horticulture. An ornamental species not widely cultivated at present, however, it has potential mainly because of its interesting foliage (Elliot and Jones 1982).

References

- Elliot, W.R. and Jones, D.L. (1982). *Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation*. vol. 2. (Lothian Publishing Company.)
- Maslin, B.R. (1995b). *Acacia* miscellany 13. Taxonomy of some Western Australian phyllocladinous and aphyllodinous taxa (Leguminosae: Mimosoideae). *Nuytsia* 10(2): 151-179.