Botanical name

Acacia heteroneura var. *jutsonii* (Maiden) Cowan & Maslin, Nuytsia 10: 37 (1995)

The species name is derived from the Greek *hetero-* (different, uneven) and *neuron* (nerve) and refers to the phyllode nerves that are of different widths.

The varietal name commemorates John Thomas Jutson who collected the type material from Comet Vale in 1916 (see Hall 1978 for biographical notes)

Common name

Jutson's Wattle.

Characteristic features

Branchlets minutely and silvery appressed-hairy between the reddish brown ribs. *Phyllodes* rhombic-terete, rigid, ascending to erect, pale green to pale greyish green, multi-nerved with the nerve at the apex of each angle the widest, hooked at apex. *Heads* globular to obloid, the flowers not densely arranged within the heads; *peduncles* short. *Pods* narrow, terete, erect. *Seeds* mottled. *Plants* normally with at least some flowers present in most months of the year; the heads are scattered over the plants and pods commonly present with the flowers.

Description

Habit. Dense or sub-dense, rounded *shrubs* (0.5-)1-3 m tall (mostly 1.5-2.5 m in the Kalannie region) and 1-3 m wide, single-stemmed (branching at about 0.3 m above ground level) or 2-6 branched at ground level, upper branches much divided and ascending to erect, crowns commonly extending to ground level.
Bark. Grey, smooth except finely longitudinally fissured at base of stems.
Branchlets. Minutely silvery appressed-hairy between the reddish brown ribs.
Phyllodes. Rhombic-terete in cross-section, 4-7(-10) cm long, 1-1.7 mm wide, rigid, ascending to erect, straight to very shallowly incurved, pale green to pale greyish green, sericeous generally or the hairs confined to between the nerves, oldest phyllodes sometimes glabrous; *longitudinal nerves* numerous, the nerve at apex of each angle wider than those on each of the intervening four faces; *apices* variably hooked, not pungent to coarsely pungent.
Heads. Single within axil of phyllodes, globular to ovoid or obloid, 8-9 mm long and about 7 mm wide when fresh, bright light- to mid-golden, scattered over the plants, sub-densely 17-30-flowered; *peduncles* 2-6 mm long (but can be obscured by anthers at anthesis so that the heads appear sessile), with silvery appressed hairs.
Flowers. 5-merous; *sepals* united.
Pods. Terete, (3-)5-8.5 cm long, 2-2.5 mm wide, erect, crustaceous, straight, light brown but with a silvery sheen on surfaces due to minute, appressed hairs (observe at x10 magnification), the margins glabrous.
Seeds. Longitudinal in the pods, 3.5-4.5 mm long, about 1.5 mm wide, grey-brown or yellow-brown with darker brown mottlings; *aril* long and white.

Taxonomy

Related species. *Acacia heteroneura* together with *A. desertorum* and *A. epedunculata* constitute the "*A. heteroneura* group"; see Cowan and Maslin (1995) for discussion. Neither of these relatives occur in the Kalannie region. (Note: Cowan and Maslin erroneously placed the Kalannie region species *A. cylindrica* in this group also: see Maslin, in press). *Acacia heteroneura* is a highly variable, taxonomically complex species and more research is needed to satisfactorily resolve the entities

currently ascribed to it, and to elucidate relationships with closely related taxa such as *A. desertorum*.

Varieties. *Acacia heteroneura* consists of four varieties, var. *heteroneura*, var. *jutsonii*, var. *petila* and var. *prolixa*. The plants occurring in the Kalannie region seem best referable to var. *jutsonii*.

Distribution

Acacia heteroneura var. *jutsonii* has a widespread but discontinuous distribution in southern Western Australia where it occurs from Kalannie southeast to the Frank Hann National Park (east of Lake King) and further inland at Comet Vale, Bandya Station (about 120 km due north of Laverton) and in the vicinity of Queen Victoria Springs Nature Reserve (east of Kalgoorlie).

This variety is of scattered occurrence within the Kalannie region.

Habitat

This variety occurs in a number of habitats over its wide geographic range. The western populations grow in yellow sand and gravelly sand in scrub, heath, open shrubland and woodland. Populations in the east grow in red and yellow sand on plains and dunes in open Mallee (*Eucalyptus* sp.) and Spinifex (*Triodia* sp) communities.

In the Kalannie region var. *jutsonii* it grows in yellow-brown sand. It seems to prefer the mid- and upper-slopes within the landscape.

Recorded from the following Kalannie region Land Management Units. Sand over Gravel; Spillway Sand.

Conservation status

Not considered rare or endangered.

Flowering

Over its geographic range (including the Kalannie region) var. *jutsonii* appears to have flowers on the plants in most months of the year, with the main flush occurring anywhere between April and January.

Fruiting

Current data shows that over its geographic range this variety has pods with mature seeds occurring from May to June and December to January, with the pods often present at the same time as the flowers. It is likely that subsequent work will reveal that pods, like the flowers, are present on the plants for most months of the year.

Plants collected in the Kalannie region in early December 1996 and in late June 1997 had both flowers and pods with mature seeds.

Biological features

No information available.

Propagation

Propagate from seed.

Revegetation

On account of its large growth form this variety would be suitable for soil stabilisation puroposes and for growing as a visual screen. It would also be suited for inclusion in mixed plantings as a low windbreak.

Utilisation

Erosion control. See Revegetation above.
Windbreak. See Revegetation above.
Visual screen. See Revegetation above.
Horticulture and Amenity planting. This variety has some horticultural or amenity planting potential for semi-arid areas; although the flowers are not particularly showy they are present on the plants for most months of the year;.

References

Cowan, R.S. and Maslin, B.R. (1995). *Acacia* Miscellany 10. New taxa and notes on previously described taxa of Acacia, mostly section Juliflorae (Leguminosae: Mimosoideae), in Western Australia. Nuytsia 10(1): 15-62.

Maslin, B.R. (in press). *Acacia*. In *Flora of Australia* vol. 11 (CSIRO, Melbourne: Australia.)

Hall, N. (1978). *Botanists of the Eucalypts.* (CSIRO: Melbourne.)