Botanical name

Acacia resinosa Cowan and Maslin (to be described in a forthcoming issue of Nuytsia)

The botanical name is derived from the Latin *resinosus* (resinous) and refers to the rather obvious resinous nature of most parts of the plant.

Common name

Summer Wattle.

Characteristic features

Somewhat aromatic, generally resinous (but not viscid), dense *shrubs* with a long flowering period. *Phyllodes* terete to sub-terete, light green, obscurely multi-nerved, innocuous. *Heads* globular. *Seeds* mottled.

Description

Habit. Somewhat aromatic, rounded, dense to moderately dense *shrubs* 1-3 m tall and 2-4 m wide, crowns either extending to ground level or occupying about 40% of the total plant height, dividing at or near ground level into many stems (each 4-6 cm diameter at their base) which divide into many, fairly straight, ascending to erect branches (1.5-3 cm diameter at breast height), can become single-stemmed with age (beginning to branch at about 0.5 m above ground level).
Bark. Dark grey from base of stems to branchlets, thin, finely longitudinally fissured and fibrous on the main stems, smooth on the upper branches.
Branchlets. Glabrous (very rarely appressed-hairy between the ribs), resinous, the resin encrusting entire surface or confined to ribs.
Phyllodes. Terete to subterete, (2-)3-8(-9) cm long, 0.5-1 mm in diameter, sub-rigid, ascending to erect, straight to shallowly incurved, glabrous, light green; *longitudinal nerves* about 16, obscure, close together, slightly resinous (but not viscid); *apices* straight or shallowly curved to uncinate, not pungent; *pulvinus* orange.
Heads. 1 or 2 within axil of phyllodes, globular, 5 mm in diameter when fresh, golden, 18-37-flowered, scattered over the plants; *buds* resinous; *peduncles* (2-)4-8(-9) mm long, glabrous or sometimes minutely appressed-hairy, resinous.
Flowers. 5-merous; *sepals* united.
Pods. Linear, slightly undulate, flat, slightly constricted between the seeds and slightly raised over them, 4-7 cm long, 2-3.5 mm wide, held at various angles but generally widely spreading, firmly chartaceous to thinly coriaceous, glabrous, greyish yellow, resinous.
Seeds. Longitudinal in the pods 2.5-3.5 mm long, about 1.5 mm wide, shiny, mottled mid- and dark-brown; *aril* white.

Taxonomy

Related species. *Acacia resinosa* is most closely related to *A*. affin. *resinosa* which is distinguished by its smaller statue, shorter phyllodes and peduncles and yellow seed arils (see *A.* affin. *resinosa* for further details).

Superficially similar species. Along some roadverges in the Kalannie region *A. resinosa* grows close to *A. coolgardiensis* subsp. *coolgardiensis* and care needs to be taken not to confuse the two on account of their similar growth habit and phyllodes. From a distance the crowns of subsp. *coolgardiensis* have an overall greyish hue whereas those of *A. resinosa* are light green; upon closer inspection subsp. *coolgardiensis* is distinguished by its fluted trunks, sessile, commonly obloid heads and terete pods containing non-mottled seeds.

Distribution

This species has a widespread, but discontinuous, distribution in Western Australia occurring near Gutha, in the Wubin-Wongan Hills area, near Koolyanobbing, Southern Cross and Karonie; it is also scattered from near Kulin eastwards to near Ponier Rock.

Acacia resinosa is not overly common in Kalannie region but it forms dense regrowth populations along road verges and in fallow land around paddocks in some areas.

Habitat

Over its range this species is reported to grow in clay, loam and sand.

In the Kalannie region it occurs on loose yellow-brown sandy loam over clay. *Acacia resinosa* appears to be slightly salt tolerant.

Recorded from the following Kalannie region Land Management Unit. Pediment; Spillway Sand.

Conservation status

Not considered rare or endangered.

Flowering

Over its geographic range plants of this species have been observed in flower from June to December. However, it is likely that at least sporadic flowering occurs in most months of the year and this appears to be the case for plants which occur in the Kalannie region.

Fruiting

Pods with mature seeds have been collected in December but it is likely that further sampling will extend this to other months of the year.

Some plants from the Kalannie region had mature seeds occurring with the flowers in early December 1996.

The pods occur scattered over the plants (not in bunches) which makes collection by hand somewhat difficult.

Biological features

No information available.

Propagation

Informal germination tests, using various hot water treatments, were conducted by Angela Waters (Kalannie Tree Supplies). This study suggests that *A. resinosa* is not a particularly easy species to germinate. The best results (but less than 50% germination) were obtained from using seed that had been either soaked overnight in just-boiled water before sowing, or boiled for 1 minute prior to soaking. Untreated seed showed even a poorer germination response.

Revegetation

Acacia resinosa has considerable potential for use in revegetation within the Kalannie region. The species would be effective for salinity control and soil stabilisation in seasonally wet areas and on sandplain seepages. Also, as noted below it has potential as a visual screen, low windbreak and wildlife refuge. In some

areas *A. resinosa* regenerates prolifically (seemingly from seed) in disturbed sites such as along road verges.

Utilisation

Salinity control. See Revegetation above.
Soil stabilisation. See Revegetation above.
Windbreak and visual screen. This species has potential as a low windbreak or a visual screen on account of its dense to moderately dense spreading porous crowns.
Wildlife refuge. Its growth habit also renders it suitable for wildlife protection; it would be particularly effective in this regard when individuals grow close together.