

*Scaevola crassifolia*

## THICK-LEAVED SCAEVOLA

Labill.

**Flowering period:** July–February.

**Description:** Erect to ground-hugging, often intensely sticky-leaved shrub, 0.1–1.5 m high in the Perth region. Leaves variable depending upon location and proximity to the ocean-front, usually paddle-shaped and rounded, 30–75 mm long, 10–33 mm wide with finely toothed margins. Flowers terminal to sub-terminal, in open heads, petals 7–10 mm long with a prominent style protruding from just beyond the flower. Seed a hard nut, within a thin, fleshy, flattened spherical fruit 2.5 mm wide, 1.5 mm long, green, ripening yellow to orange.

**Pollination:** Open pollinated by a variety of insects.

**Distribution:** Widespread from Shark Bay to Eyre in the Great Australian Bight. In the Perth region a number of forms occur in frontal dunes or over limestone. The limestone form is similar to the clone-forming type occurring on Rottnest Island and is lower growing and can form growth circles with age as the centre parts of the plant die out. At Swanbourne Beach both the clonal and shrub form co-occur.

**Propagation:** From cuttings taken in early summer. Strike cuttings directly into pots to be used in plantings and ensure plants are sun-hardened to maximise survival when transplanted. Plant in full sun.

**Uses in restoration:** One of the main species for primary dune restoration. Adapts well to both full exposure and protected sites and is a useful nurse plant for establishing other slower growing and taller species such as coastal *Acacia* species. Can tolerate some sand burial. Use only locally sourced cuttings to maintain local genetic integrity and to maximise local adaptive advantage.

**Notes:** Survives well in the home garden with or without water. Responds well to pruning and hedging. Often confused with *Scaevola nitida* that has non-fleshy leaves, no leaf stickiness and leaves that are lance-shaped.



Habit



Fruit



Flowers



Distribution