

Thomasia triphylla

(Labill.) Gay

COASTAL THOMASIA

Flowering period: July–November.

Description: Many stemmed, erect to spreading shrub to 80 cm high along the Perth coast. Leaves 25–55 mm wide, 15–35 mm long, coarse with fine, star-like clusters of hairs. Flowers 2 cm across, in 5 cm long spikes, 3–5 flowered, pendulous and often predated by insects. Stamens 4 mm long, clustered around stigma.

Pollination: Most likely buzz-pollinated due to the similarity with other buzz-pollinated flowers.

Distribution: From Jurien Bay to Augusta in coastal and calcareous soils. In the Perth region usually restricted to full sun and areas of limestone or to heathland in highly stable secondary dunes where the species grows in unison with the other heathland plants. Not tolerant of high wind or salt exposed areas.

Propagation: From cuttings taken at the start of the growing season. Can be difficult to strike and requires specialist propagation advice to achieve success.

Uses in restoration: For increasing biodiversity values of stabilised, restored dunes. Plant only with other species of similar growth form such as *Melaleuca systena*, *Phyllanthus calycinus* and *Templetonia retusa*, as *Thomasia triphylla* is susceptible to wind damage.

Notes: An attractive low-growing species that requires full sun to flower well. Tip prune for shape and can tolerate clipping.



Habit



Flowers



Leaves



Distribution