

**Cakile maritima*

SEA ROCKET

Scop.

Flowering period: January–December.**Description:** Succulents prostrate to ascending annual to perennial herb to 50 cm high with entire to dissected leaves, 1–3 cm wide, 5–8 cm long, fleshy to highly succulent depending upon exposure to salt spray. Flowers of variable colour, white to pink or purple. The distinctive two-capsuled fruit are produced over a long period and appear to have extended seed longevity enabling the plant to germinate over a long period of time.**Pollination:** Open pollinated by a variety of insects.**Distribution:** Widespread and common on coastal sands and dunes from Shark Bay to Esperance.**Control:** Glyphosate applied to foliage; however, the species is usually restricted to the strand where few other native species can survive.**Notes:** The most adaptable of all coastal weeds and the only species that can colonise mobile strand areas just at or above the high water mark. The species has high growth rates and can quickly colonise and dominate a site particularly if subjected to soil disturbance. The highly invasive roots can extend for many metres into adjacent rehabilitation areas. Can be controlled with spot application of herbicide; however, the long-lived soil seed bank requires follow-up monitoring to ensure subsequent germination events are controlled. A widespread species of coastal and arid areas in Europe and north Africa where the species is being investigated for oil seed production.

Habit



Flowers



Branchlet



Distribution