

## *Acacia cochlearis*

(Labill.) H.L.Wendl

### RIGID WATTLE

**Flowering period:** July–October.

**Description:** Bushy, erect to sprawling shrub, 0.5–3 m high and found as solitary plants or in thickets. Leaves to 45 mm long with a sharp point, rigid, with prominent parallel veins. Flower heads globular with up to three produced in each leaf axil. The green-brown pod is flat, to 50 mm long, and produces 10–15 black and usually highly viable seeds.

**Pollination:** Open pollinated by a wide variety of non-specific insects. Sets a moderate amount of seed in good seasons.

**Distribution:** From Lancelin to Israelite Bay where the species grows as solitary plants or in thickets in coastal to near-coastal habitats. Along the coast the species favours stable secondary dunes. Often an indicator of good quality dunes as the species is vulnerable to disturbance.

**Propagation:** Grow from seed collected in December when pods mature. Seed should be hot water treated or lightly abraded with fine sandpaper. Sow in a free-draining soil mix and keep moist. Seedling growth may benefit from incorporation of a little soil taken from the weed- and disease-free soil surface around a parent plant to ensure transfer of the *Rhizobium* bacteria that are important in nitrogen nutrition of the plant.

**Uses in restoration:** A useful species that reliably establishes in stabilised soil. Must be protected from direct exposure to high winds and is best incorporated into mixed plantings with other shrubs including *Acacia rostellifera* and *Scaevola crassifolia*.

**Notes:** As with many *Acacia* species the distinctive aril or food body attached to the seed may aid in seed dispersal by insects and birds. An attractive, compact shrub for the home garden that requires a full sun position.



R. Barrett

Habit



Branches



R. Barrett

Flowers



Distribution