

## *Acacia rostellifera*

### SUMMER-SCENTED WATTLE

Benth.

**Flowering period:** July–December.

**Description:** Dense shrub or small tree, 1–6 m high, often forming dense thickets due to the pronounced root suckering ability of the species. Leaves somewhat variable in shape, often linear, 6–10 cm long, 5–10 mm wide, becoming thicker almost semi-succulent as they age and when exposed to salt winds. The seed pods are produced in variable amounts with distinctive constrictions between the seeds, green, becoming yellow and drying brown. Pods open explosively to release the distinctive black seeds with prominent orange aril thought to be important in aiding dispersal of the seed. Grows on primary to tertiary dunes to limestone outcrops where the root suckering enables the species to colonise significant areas.

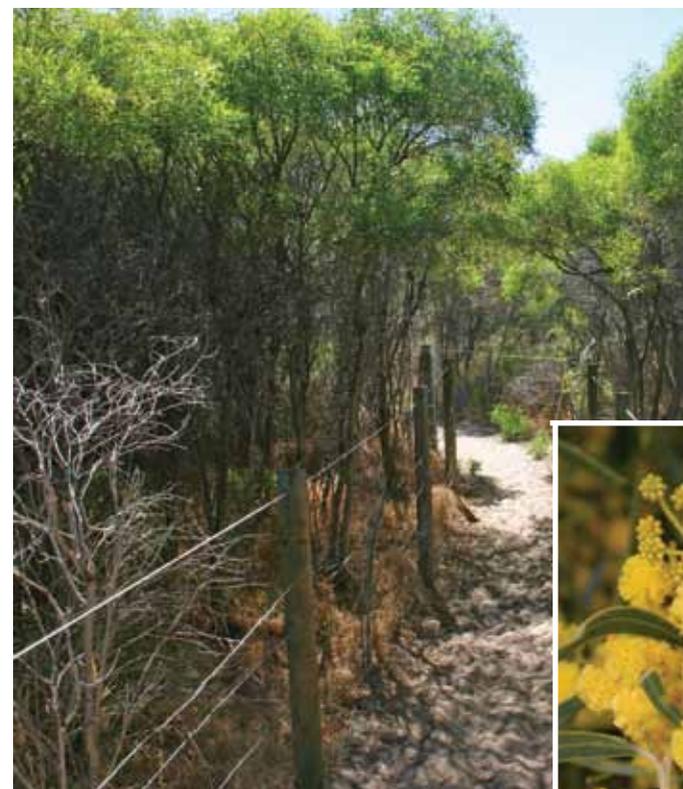
**Pollination:** Open pollinated by a variety of insects.

**Distribution:** Shark Bay to Augusta and Bremer Bay to Israelite Bay.

**Propagation:** Seed readily germinates when treated with hot water or lightly scarified with fine sandpaper. The species appears to have a strong requirement for soil bacteria (*Rhizobium*) and incorporation into the seedling mix of a small quantity of surface soil from around the parent plant will promote more effective nodulation and subsequent growth.

**Uses in restoration:** A highly useful species due to the ability of the plant to rapidly colonise open ground from sub-surface horizontal roots. The plant can extend surface roots for up to 5 m from the parent plant and produce multiple, tufted shoots that establish an independent root system and subsequent root suckers. Some caution is required with planting densities to ensure the species does not dominate restoration sites. For example, 30–50 root suckers may be produced from a single plant, an indication of the early establishment potential of the species. A more wind-hardy species than *A. cyclops* when the plants are likely to be subjected to strong winds.

**Notes:** Easily recognisable from the other shrub-forming coastal wattle species by the ability of the leaves to snap rather than bend. *A. rostellifera* is similar to *A. xanthina* (a conservation priority species) but has smaller leaves and lacks the blue-grey powdery coating on the leaves.



Habit



Flowers



Seeds



Thicket



Distribution