

Acrotriche cordata

COASTAL BLUEBERRY

(Labill.) R.Br.

Flowering period: July–December.**Description:** Low, spreading to erect shrub to 90 cm high and forming local clusters up to 2 m wide. Leaves heart-shaped, 8 mm long, 5 mm wide. Flowers, green and white and produced in small spikes along older branches (directly from the stem) and in the leaf axils of shoots, and often difficult to see without parting the canopy. Fruit berry-like, sweet and often removed by fruit-eating birds and reptiles.**Pollination:** Unknown but likely to be crawling insects due to the cryptic nature of the concealed flowers.**Distribution:** Widespread, sometimes locally common in coastal areas from Dongara to the Great Australian Bight but uncommon along the metropolitan coast where the species grows from rocky, semi-exposed coastline to secondary and tertiary dunes where the plant grows in clusters as a result of clonal spread from underground shoots. Can tolerate full sun to partial shade.**Propagation:** Difficult to propagate from seeds or cuttings and no reliable methods are currently known.**Uses in restoration:** A species that fails to naturally recruit following human disturbance and is likely to decline in the metropolitan coast if propagation methods are not resolved. Usually an indicator species of high quality biodiverse dunes vegetation.**Notes:** A member of the native heath or Ericaceae family, a widespread group of winter to spring flowering shrubs comprising numerous species in Western Australia, most of which are difficult to propagate.

Habit



Flowers



Fruit



Distribution