

Alyxia buxifolia

SEA BOX

R.Br.

Flowering period: October–November (January–December).

Description: Compact, dark green shrub, 0.5–1.5 m high, often low and spreading. Leaves entire, elliptical, thick and rigid, 1.5–3 cm long. Flowers white to cream with an orange tube, star-like, 1 cm wide. Fruit a berry, globular, 8mm long, orange-red, often maturing in mid-late summer.

Pollination: Moths or similar proboscoid insects are the likely pollinators due to the length of the tube leading to the nectar source and narrow opening.

Distribution: Widespread throughout arid and coastal south-western Australia with an interesting disjunction between coastal forms in the Perth region and the inland form that grows from Shark Bay to east of Esperance. Sea box grows on a wide variety of sites from rocky/lateritic to clay soils. On the Perth coast the species favours rocky limestone headlands often exposed to high winds sometimes mixed with other heath-like species.

Propagation: Cutting propagation; however, the species grows slowly and requires some time to mature in pots prior to transplanting.

Uses in restoration: Not frequently found in restoration programs, most likely because the species is difficult to propagate and slow growing.

Notes: Known as sea box due to the resemblance of the shrub to cultivated box (*Buxus* spp.). Though slow growing, sea box would make an excellent hedging plant for coastal gardens as the plant is highly drought tolerant and wind proof.



Habit



Leaves



Flowers



Distribution

R. Barrett