

## *Anthocercis ilicifolia*

## HOLLY-LEAF TAILFLOWER

Hook.

**Flowering period:** April–December.

**Description:** An erect, much branched shrub, 0.5–3 m high, often growing in dense stands following fire or soil disturbance. Leaves sometimes fleshy, distinctively toothed, 5 cm long. Flowers yellow with purple to maroon striations. Fruit beak-like and splits to release a number of small brown seeds. Galls form on some fruits resulting in spherical structures that resemble fruits but are devoid of seeds.

**Pollination:** Visited by a variety of insects.

**Distribution:** Found on calcareous sand in dunes (secondary to tertiary dunes), limestone outcrops and ridges in coastal areas from Shark Bay to Bunbury. In the Perth region can be locally common after disturbance such as fire with the plants living for 3–6 years.

**Propagation:** From seed treated with smoke (either smoke water or aerosol smoke) prior to sowing in a free-draining mix. Potential to broadcast pre-treated seed; however, further research is required to improve success of broadcast seeding methods (see restoration section).

**Uses in restoration:** Considerable potential as a nurse crop for stabilising dunes and rehabilitating tracks during establishment of the perennial understory as the species declines with age allowing growth of understorey species.

**Notes:** Distinguished from the similar-looking and co-occurring *Anthocercis littorea* by the larger, leafless inflorescence, larger flowers and broader corolla tube in *A. ilicifolia*. Potential to make an attractive garden subject as the drooping flowers are produced over a long period and the plants are highly drought resistant.



Habit



E.P. Toy

Flowers



R. Barrett

Fruit



Distribution