

## *Clematis linearifolia*

### SLENDER CLEMATIS

Steud.

**Flowering period:** July–October.

**Description:** Scrambling and twining plant to 3 m, often forming a canopy overtopping shrubs, particularly *Acacia* species. Leaves distinctly three-lobed, each lobe linear to narrow, lance-shaped, 3–6 cm long, 1–2 cm wide. Stems arise from a cluster of deeply buried, fleshy, finger-like tubers that enable the plant to survive summer drought. Flowers white to cream, star-like, in dense clusters often forming spectacular floral displays in coastal thickets. Seeds brown, in clusters of up to 30 seeds per flower each topped by a distinctive feather-like curling awn giving the plant at seeding time the appearance of having silky hair.

**Pollination:** Likely to be open pollinated by a variety of coastal insects.

**Distribution:** Widespread throughout coastal areas in temperate Australia and found from Shark Bay to Cape Naturaliste where the fine, feather-like attachment on the seed enables the seed to be wind dispersed.

**Propagation:** Propagate from seed sown immediately following collection from the plant. Seed can be sown directly into seedling pots or pricked out of seedling trays. Bamboo supports or similar are necessary to guide stems onto nearby supporting plants.

**Uses in restoration:** Favours protected sites and should be planted on the wind-protected side of coastal shrubs such as *Acacia rostellifera* and *A. cyclops*. Suitable for introduction into established planting sites. A highly attractive and useful species in restoration programs particularly for raising public interest and profile of restoration sites.

**Notes:** Though not readily available from commercial sources this species is worth trialling in established restoration programs due to the attractive flowers and interesting seeding habit. Excellent garden subject that can be used to great effect if co-planted with *Hardenbergia comptoniana*. Drought resistant, preferring full sun and a suitable support species. Can attain 3 m or more under garden conditions.



Habit



Flowers



Seeds



Distribution