

Gastrolobium nervosum DUNE EGGS AND BACON

(Meisn.) G.Chandler & Crisp

Flowering period: July–November.

Description: Low, somewhat inconspicuous shrub to 50 cm tall. Leaves usually in whorls of 3 or 4, narrow, 3–7 cm long, 4–8 mm wide usually with a prominent longitudinal fold and with conspicuous often sunken reticulate veining. Flowers in clusters in the axils of the leaves, 1–1.5 cm across. Pods football-shaped containing up to 10 dark brown, kidney-shaped, 3 mm long seeds with a small pale appendage or aril thought to be important in ant-dispersal of the seed.

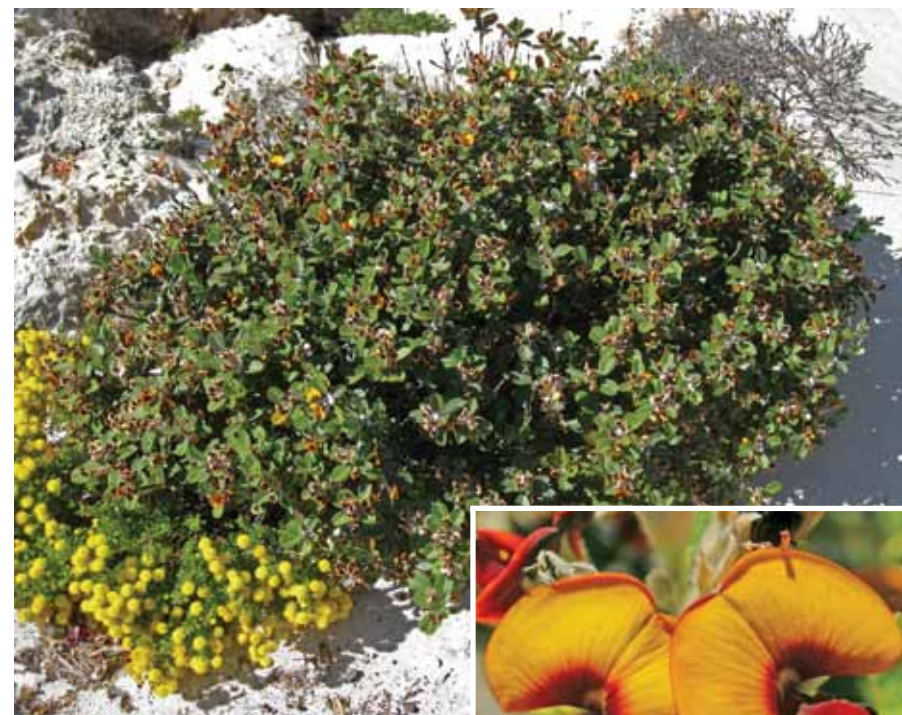
Pollination: Open pollinated by a variety of native and introduced insects.

Distribution: In protected areas of primary and secondary dunes often where few other species grow. Widespread and occasional in distribution from Northampton to Mandurah. Though uncommon in the Perth region, the species is conspicuous as being one of the few pea species to grow in the highly calcareous dune sands near the beachfront.

Propagation: From seed that is scarified and sown directly into pots ready for transfer to the site. Addition of a small amount of habitat soil to the potting mix will assist in inoculation by suitable nitrogen-fixing soil *Rhizobium* bacteria.

Uses in restoration: A useful species as part of boosting the biodiversity values of the dunes. May be useful in maintaining native species of bees and beetles that rely on native legumes for food.

Notes: A smaller-growing species than eggs and bacon and useful in the coastal garden as a full sun requiring native legume that is tolerant to limestone or calcareous soils.



Habit



Flowers



Branch and flowers



Distribution