

Hemiandra pungens

COASTAL SNAKE BUSH

R.Br.

Flowering period: January–December.

Description: Prostrate to low, spreading shrub to 50 cm high but can reach 2 m in diameter. Leaves narrow, tipped with a sharp point, 4 cm long and 6 mm wide, usually hairless, sometimes covered in soft, grey hairs. Flowers can be pink, white or lilac with various degrees of spotting in the throat, up to 3.5 cm long and produced along the stem. Seeds a nutlet produced throughout the year.

Pollination: Possibly pollinated by a variety of insects.

Distribution: Widespread in coastal areas to inland from Kalbarri to Albany with a number of forms and variants recognised. Grows in sheltered areas on primary dunes and in heathland in secondary dunes. Often seen growing through and over nearby low shrubs.

Propagation: From cuttings; however, specialist propagation skills are required as the species is slow to respond.

Uses in restoration: A highly useful species for gap-filling in stabilised dune areas away from direct wind and salt spray. An attractive species that flowers over extended periods and is therefore particularly useful for planting in high visibility restoration areas.

Notes: With the number of colour variants including white now available, coastal snake bush is a stand-out coastal species for gardens. Although subject to root diseases with plants suddenly dying after many years, coastal snake bush remains an attractive plant for rockeries and general landscaping in full sun. The species is highly wind sensitive.



Habit



Flowers



White flowered cultivar



Distribution