Lechenaultia linarioides YELLOW LESCHENAULTIA

DC.

Flowering period: August–December (August–March if summer rain occurs).

Description: Low-growing to prostrate erect shrub to 80 cm high and up to 1 m across with arched branchlets formed from seasonal new growth. Leaves deciduous, with the green branches taking over the function of photosynthesis for the plant. Flowers solitary or in clusters of two or more at the end of branchlets. Flowers numerous, to 2.5 cm across, opening greenish-white, ageing red – a phenomenon thought to be related to the use of insect pollinators only visiting freshly opened flowers ready for pollination. Seeds produced in elongated pods to 4 cm long that split longitudinally to release numerous grey-black, squarish seeds.

Pollination: Open pollinated by a variety of native insects that visit the flowers in search of nectar.

Distribution: Widespread and common from Kalbarri to Busselton, often found in stabilised secondary dunes growing in and amongst low heath vegetation.

Propagation: Easily grown from cuttings taken during the growing season. Plants grow and flower readily in pots. Transfer to site when sufficiently robust to handle as plants are prone to damage if small.

Uses in restoration: Useful for improving biodiversity values of restored dunes and can be grown to best effect in full sun with protection from winds and salt spray. A highly attractive species that is most useful in high visitation areas of rehabilitation sites.

Notes: One of the showiest small shrubs in the coastal dunes. This species is related to one of the most popular of Western Australian wildflowers, the wreath flower (*L. macrantha*) that also ages its flowers from greenish-white to red, often in perfect concentric circles. Yellow leschenaultia is highly adaptable to a wide range of soil conditions and is drought tolerant. Full sun is preferred and prune hard after flowering to ensure fresh growth and abundant flowering. Available from native plant specialist nurseries.

Habit

Flowers

R. Barrett

Fruit

Distribution