

Olax benthamiana

COASTAL OLAX

Miq.

Flowering period: June–November.

Description: Compact, erect, parasitic shrub to 80 cm high that may be clone-forming with young plants produced along surface roots 50–100 cm from the parent plant. Leaves grey-green, soft and pliable, 10–17 mm long, 2–3 mm wide, becoming smaller towards ends of branches that carry flowers, and pendulous. Flowers 8 mm across with stamens bearded in the lower half. Seed a globular, fleshy fruit, 5–7 mm wide.

Pollination: Open pollinated by a variety of insect visitors.

Distribution: In secondary stable dunes and in limestone areas usually mixed with other heath-like species.

Propagation: Rarely propagated as the seedling requires a suitable local host plant such as *Olearia axillaris* or *Melaleuca systema*. Alternatively sow seeds directly in established rehabilitation adjacent to a suitable low-growing host species.

Uses in restoration: Not known in restoration programs but would require stable secondary dune vegetation for successful growth. Not tolerant of highly exposed sites.

Notes: A parasitic species that with its attractive grey-green foliage would make an interesting foliage contrast when mixed with other shrubby species in the home garden. Tolerant of a wide variety of soil types.



Habit



Branchlet and flower



Habit



Distribution