

## *Opercularia vaginata*

Juss.

### DOG WEED

**Flowering period:** July–December.

**Description:** Spreading, erect, perennial herb to 30 cm high, often straggly with previous years stems dying back and being replaced by new seasons shoots. Leaves deciduous, 12–65 mm long, to 4 mm wide with hairs similar to those on the stem. Flowers in dense, globular heads up to 18 mm across with flowers appearing from the head for only a few days.

**Pollination:** Wind pollinated though opportunistic insect visitation may also occur.

**Distribution:** Widespread on coastal dunes and limestone soils particularly in wind protected heathlands from Shark Bay to Israelite Bay and inland to the arid zone.

**Propagation:** From cuttings taken during the growing season.

**Uses in restoration:** A species that is useful for increasing the biodiversity values of restoration programs; however, requires protected or sheltered sites and should be grown with similarly sized species such as *Conostylis candidans* and *Ficinia nodosa*.

**Notes:** A species of limited value in the home garden due to its inconspicuous flowers and untidy growth habit.



Habit



Flowers



Flowering branch



Distribution