

Cryptandra mutila

Reissek.

Coastal buckthorn

Flowering period: May–September.

Description: Compact to dense, sometimes spiny (though not in the Perth form) small shrub 20–60 cm high and occurs as scattered individual plants in low heath in limestone or shallow soil over limestone. Leaves 2–7 mm long, 0.5–2 mm wide, almost hairless, with margins rolled (recurved) scattered along stems. Flowers in short, leafy spikes, solitary or in clusters on upper parts of branches. Seed fine and produced from dehiscent capsules.

Pollination: Possibly open pollinated by a variety of insects.

Distribution: Widespread but often restricted to areas on limestone outcrops and in protected areas of sandy areas over limestone.

Propagation: Propagated from cuttings. Seed is difficult to collect due to the dehiscent capsules and fine seed.

Uses in restoration: The species should only be planted in protected areas and prefers limestone areas most likely due to its roots being adapted to penetrate the porous nature of the limestone substrate.

Notes: One of several members of the Rhamnaceae that are deserving in gardens and restoration sites with flowering through winter providing a potentially useful nectar and pollen source for insects.



Habit



Flowers



Distribution