

Acacia sophorae

COMMON NAMES

coastal wattle

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub up to 1-3 m high, but can be up to 10 m when occurring as dense 'forest' naturalised on dunes. With spreading habit and sharply angled twigs. Leaves reduced to phyllodes. Phyllodes narrowly elliptic to obovate, green and up to 110 x 25 mm with 2 prominent veins. Flowers in dark yellow in cylindrical spikes up to 45 mm long. Ripe seed pods brown and very contorted.

SIMILAR TAXA

This species is very similar to *A. longifolia* (var. *longifolia*) but can be distinguished by the broader phyllodes, and the very contorted pods.

HABITAT

Occurs on sand dunes

GENUS

Acacia

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Acacia sophorae (Labill.) R.Br.

SYNONYMS

Acacia longifolia var. *sophorae* (Labill.) F. Muell.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

July, August

YEAR NATURALISED

1997

ORIGIN

Australia, East coast

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Mainly as coastal shelter, especially for young plantings *Pinus radiata* forest on dunes; perhaps ornamental.



Whangaehu River mouth. Aug 2012.

Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Seed and elaiosome. Castlecliff Beach. Feb

2013. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

TOLERANCES

Tolerant of salt spray

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

There is little resprouting if shrubs are cut close to ground level.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Very fast growing species that thrives in sand dunes. Can have huge impacts in these systems. Prolific seed is produced in good years, can spread vegetatively if branches touch ground. Dispersed by people for coastal shelter and an ornamental shrub. Seed is spread locally by wind, sand and gravity, stem layering is also of some importance.

ETYMOLOGY

acacia: Derived from Greek 'akazo' to sharpen, meaning point; spine or thorn.

NVS CODE

ACASOP

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/acacia-sophorae/>

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