

Acacia sophorae

COMMON NAMES

coastal wattle

SYNONYMS

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

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Acacia sophorae (Labill.) R.Br.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

ACASOP

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Occurs on sand dunes

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.

FLOWERING

July, August

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

LIFE CYCLE

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.

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.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

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

TOLERANCES

Tolerant of salt spray

ETYMOLOGY

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: Ogle, C. (Year at time of access): *Acacia sophorae* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/acacia-sophorae/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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

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