Botanical name

Acacia dissona var. *indoloria* Cowan & Maslin, Nuytsia 10: 211 (1995)

The species name is derived from the Latin *dissonus* (discordant or different) and refers to the discordant nature of the species in relation to its close relatives.

The varietal name is derived from the Latin *indolorius* (painless), and refers to the scarcely pungent phyllode apices, a character distinguishing this variety from var. *dissona*.

Common name

None known.

Characteristic features

Branchlets minutely appressed white-hairy between the ribs at extremities. *Phyllodes* short, terete, green, +/- straight, finely multi-nerved, stomata evident (at x10 magnification) between the nerves, apices narrowed to a brown, often shallowly curved, non-pungent to coarsely pungent point. *Heads* globular, small, on short peduncles. *Pods* curved, thinly textured.

Description

Habit. Narrowly obconic or rounded *shrubs* 0.5-2.5 m tall, multi-stemmed or dividing at (or just above) ground level into 2-3 main stems which are 2-3 cm in diameter at their base, the upper branches often +/- contorted, crowns dense, compact or rather spreading.
Bark. Grey, shallowly longitudinally fissured at base of main stems, smooth on upper branches.
Branchlets. Minutely appressed white-hairy between ribs at extremities.
Phyllodes. Terete, 13-40 mm long, 1-1.5 mm in diameter, rigid, inclined to erect, straight to very shallowly incurved, glabrous (except pulvinus), green; *longitudinal nerves* numerous, fine, close together and paler-coloured than the inter-nerve spaces, stomata evident (at x10 magnification) along inter-nerve spaces; *apices* rather abruptly narrowed to a short, brown, often shallowly curved, non-pungent or coarsely pungent point; *pulvinus* often hairy on its upper surface and normally slightly expanded at its base.
Heads. Paired within axil of phyllodes, globular, 4-6 mm in diameter when fresh, bright light golden, 15-20-flowered; *peduncles* mostly 2-4 mm long, glabrous.
Flowers. 5-merous; *sepals* free.
Pods. Linear, raised over and scarcely constricted between the seeds, 3- 6 cm long, 2.5 mm wide, thinly crustaceous to thinly coriaceous, curved, sparsely appressed-hairy (at least between the seeds).
Seeds. Longitudinal in the pods, 2.5-3.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, +/- glossy, dark-brown; *aril* pale yellow (soon aging white when exposed to sunlight).

Taxonomy

Varieties. *Acacia dissona* comprises two varieties but only var. *indoloria* is found in the Kalannie region. The typical variety is distinguished by its sharply pungent phyllodes (see Cowan and Maslin 1995 for more details).

Related species. *Acacia dissona* together with *A. densiflora, A. eremophila, A. hadrophylla, A. kalgoorliensis, A. mackeyana, A. papulosa* and *A. undosa* constitute the taxonomically very complex "*A. densiflora* group", see Cowan and Maslin (1995) for discussion. Apart from *A. dissona* var. *indoloria* itself, the other member of this

group that occur in the Kalannie region are *A. densiflora*, A. *eremophila* var. *variabilis, A. kalgoorliensis* and *A. mackeyana.*

Of its relatives that occur in the Kalannie region var. *dissona* most closely resembles *A. mackeyana* which is most readily distinguished by its sharply pungent, commonly recurved phyllodes and its +/- terete, hard-textured pods.

Distribution

This variety has a discontinuous distribution in southwest Western Australia. It occurs in three general areas: Kalannie to Mollerin, Bruce Rock to Muntadgin and the Frank Hann National Park (east-northeast of Lake King).

Variety *indoloria* is seemingly rare in the Kalannie region.

Habitat

Over its range var. *indoloria* grows in sand, sandy loam and loam, mostly in open mallee vegetation.

In the Kalannie region the variety grows on shallow sand over laterite adjacent to an area of submerged saprolite (i.e. decomposed granite).

Recorded from the following Kalannie region Land Management Units. Shallow Soil over Granite; Shallow Soil over Laterite.

Conservation status

Treated as a Priority 3 taxon on the Department of Conservation and Land Management's *Declared Rare and Priority Flora List*.

Priority 3 - Poorly Known Taxa. 'Taxa which are known from several populations, at least some of which are not believed to be under immediate threat (i.e. not currently endangered). Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in need of further survey.'

Flowering

Over its geographic range var. *indoloria* flowers from August to September.

In the Kalannie region plants of this variety were in mature bud in mid-August 1996 and nearing the end of their flowering in early September 1997.

Fruiting

Based on the few available herbarium records this variety is known to produce pods with mature seeds in January.

There is no information available on fruiting times for plants in the Kalannie region.

Biological features

No information available.

Propagation

No information available.

Revegetation

Variety *indoloria* would appear to have low value for revegetation in the Kalannie region. It could, however, be included in biodiversity plantings.

Utilisation

Biodiversity plantings. See Revegetation above.

Reference

Cowan, R.S. and Maslin, B.R. (1995). *Acacia* Miscellany 15. Five groups of microneurous species of *Acacia*, mostly from Western Australia (Leguminosae: Mimosoideae: section Plurinerves). Nuytsia 10(2): 205-254.