

Acacia cochlearis

Commonly: Rigid Wattle

Vascular Plant Family: Fabaceae

Flowers late autumn to spring

Acacia cochlearis is a dense, much branched shrub to 3m with a smooth bark. It is a common shrub in the dunes at Peppermint Grove Beach.



The leathery phyllodes are up to 50mm long and 10mm wide and spread out from the stem. They are stalkless, with 3 or 4 veins on both leaf surfaces. The apex is sharply pointed.



This photograph of the buds illustrates there are up to 3 ball-shaped inflorescences in each phyllode axil.



The inflorescence is ball-shaped and up to 1cm long. The large number of flowers in

each head can be seen in the older bud. Each of the bumps is an individual flower about to open.



Each head of flowers consists of 30-50 flowers. In this photograph the stigmas are obvious amongst the many stamens. It is the stamens that give the wattle flower its colour. For the detail of the wattle flower see the section "Technical Terms Explained".



The pods are linear and slightly raised over the seeds. The margins are thicker than the body of the pod. With age the pod turns brown. The valves of the pod recurve after the seed is shed.



