

Peppy Plants June 2014

by Eleanor Bennett

Alyxia buxifolia, commonly known as Dysentery Bush, is a shrub up to 2.5m tall and common on the dunes around Peppy Beach (see also [Alyxia buxifolia](#)). It has an interesting distribution as it occurs along the coast from Murchison River to the Recherche Archipelago but also inland to and beyond Kalgoorlie. *Alyxia* is derived from the Greek *halysis* as the fruit in the originally described species was jointed; and *buxifolia* is from the Latin *buxus* for the box tree and *folium* for the leaf as the leaf resembles that of the Box Tree. The leaves are opposite or occur in 3's around the stem, the blade is egg-shaped up to 4cm long and 2cm wide. The inflorescence is a sessile cluster terminating a main or axillary branch, consisting of several, aromatic flowers which are shorter than the leaves. The calyx lobes are up to 2mm long. The flower tube is orange to fawn up to 8mm long, with a thickened ring at the throat, the free lobes are cream and up to 4mm long. The 5 stamens are hidden in the flower tube and also the ovary which occurs above the petals is hidden at the base of the flower tube. The fleshy fruit is orange becoming nearly red with age, globular with 1 seed and up to 8mm long.



The leaves are egg shaped, opposite or whorled and shiny on the upper surface. Both surfaces are without hairs. The flowers are hidden amongst the leaves.



The free tips of the flowers are white to cream and resembling a whirleygig. There is an obvious darker colored, thickened ring at the throat of flower tube.



The flowers occur in clusters in the leaf axils. The petals of the flower are united into a tube which is orange or fawn in color and swollen in the upper third. This is readily seen in the photograph of the buds below. The cream colored tips will eventually open and form free lobes.



The fruit is up to 8mm long, orange, fleshy and 1-seeded. It often becomes red with age,