

Callitris preissii

Commonly: Rottnest Island Pine

Vascular Plant Family: Cupressaceae

Callitris preissii is a cone-bearing plant, not a flowering plant. It is a shrub or small tree to 5m tall with separate male and female cones on the same plant. It is a native of Western Australia but not at Peppermint Grove Beach. These plants can be seen at Wave Walk car park.



The 3 leaves occur around the stem up to 2mm long. In the mature plants they are fused to the stem so that only the minute triangular tips are free.



The small, triangular tips of the leaves are obvious in this picture below.



Leaf

The female cones are solitary, each with 6 cone scales.



The male cones are up to 5mm long, with several cone scales. When the pollen is fertile and being shed, a cloud of 'dust' can be seen on a windy day. That is the pollen being released from the pollen sacs within the cones.



The mature cone is woody and globular, with obvious warts on the surface. It has 6 valves, 3 long ones alternating with 3 shorter ones.



The winged seeds are dispersed by the wind.