

Proteaceae

Banksia aemula wallum banksia



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ETYMOLOGY

(BANK-see-a) After Joseph Banks who travelled with Captain Cook to Australia 1770; The Greek species aemulus (EM-mew-lah) from Latin rivalling, competing with, emulative. subtending glumes more or less equal.

LIFEFORM

Tree 3-6m x 1-3m Spread

STATUS

Widespread in Coastal Areas Q, NSW; Associated with *Inocybe australiensis* Fungi. Woodland Endangered Ecological Communities, listed under NSW.

OCCURS

Agnes Water Q to Sydney, NSW

HABITAT

Coastal Heath, Low sclerophyll woodland

LEAVES

Alternate/whorled, 5-18 x 2 cm, leathery, serrate edges: hairless green above paler, rusty brown hairs when young.

FLOWERS

Spikes, 8-20 cm, cylindrical, bottlebrush-shape; pale yellow/green spikes (style triangular arrow-like) Pale yellow to greenish cream, with pleasant honey scent Flower spike produced at the end of the current year's shoot or on a short lateral shoot, the next year's shoots grow from immediately below the spike. **Flowering times** March, April, May, June, July, Aug

FRUIT

Cones, 4.5 cm contain multiple florets (spent flowers); **Fruiting times** Jan, Feb

BARK

Brownish warty rough, corky verrucose, branchlets tomentose Bark easily shed after fire,

STEM

Gnarled shrub to small tree branchlets dense matted hairs; spreading habit with lignotuber

ETHNOBOTANY

Rootstock for grafting WA species such as *Banksia speciosa* and has potential for bonsai

LANDSCAPE USES

Plant use for shade and shelter. Florist use cut flowers and dry leaves in flower trade. WA species such as *Banksia speciosa* have potential in bonsai; Source of nectar and pollen for bees Cones host *Banksiomyces*, *Ascomycetes* and *Helotiaceae* fungi

TOLERANCE:

Full sun; Resistant to *Phytophthora cinnamomic* mold.

WILDLIFE:

Qld Blossom Bat, Common Blossum Bat; Little Red Flying-fox, Grey-headed Flying-fox, Yellow-footed Antechinus, Pale Field Rat, Australian Swamp Rat, Grassland Melomys, House Mouse; These animals carry pollen.

NATIVE BEES

Homalictus urbanus

INSECTS

Xylorycta strigata Web-covering Borer (moth)

BIRD

Rainbow Lorikeet, Scarlet / Lewin's / Tawny-crowned / New Holland / White-cheeked / Brown Honeyeaters, Noisy / Little Friarbirds, Little Wattlebird, Noisy Miner, Yellow-tailed Cockatoo, Olive-backed Oriole, Flycatcher

INDIGENOUS USES

Flowers soaked make a syrup for sore throats and colds.

ID FEATURE

Bark warty + Leaves leathery, toothed + Flowers large cream bottlebrush shaped + Styles 1 mm conical apex, pollen presenter clavate-conical.