

Resin Wattle

Acacia rhetinocarpa



Resin Wattle leaves (close-up)

Description

- An erect, compact, resinous spreading shrub 0.5-1.5m in height
- Leaves are 2-3mm long, 2-3mm in diameter, straight or curved, resinous and glossy with an oblique point
- Flowers are simple, axillary and single with flower-heads containing 12-15 individual flowers
- Seed pods are linear, 1-3cm long, 2-2.5mm broad, straight or curved, brown, resinous, glossy with a pointed tip
- Seeds have a fleshy aril

Ecology

- A perennial shrub that flowers predominantly between August and October
- Grows on soil types ranging from calcareous sands, red shallow porous loam or grey-brown calcareous loamy earths

Conservation rating

Resin Wattle is listed as nationally vulnerable. Recent survey work indicates there are approximately 2800 individual plants remaining in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin.

Threats

- Fragmentation
- Inappropriate fire regime
- Lack of new plants
- Weed competition

One of the major threats to Resin Wattle is the lack of recruitment among populations. Recent surveys indicate several populations appear to be in a stage of senescence with little if any recruitment occurring. Lack of recruitment may be influenced by an inappropriate fire regime and grazing.

Current knowledge indicates other major threats to this species include the fragmented nature of many of the populations, competition from weeds and grazing. To accurately determine the rate of decline of this species further knowledge is required regarding ecology, threats and population trends.

Habitat

Resin Wattle occurs in mallee woodland communities.

The overstorey of mallee habitats is dominated by:

- White Mallee (*Eucalyptus phenax* ssp. *phenax*)
- Beaked Red Mallee (*Eucalyptus sociallis*)
- Narrow-leaved Red-Mallee (*Eucalyptus leptophylla*)
- Congo Mallee (*Eucalyptus dumosa*)
- Ridge-fruited Mallee (*Eucalyptus incrassata*)



The overstorey of woodland habitats is dominated by:

- Peppermint Box (*Eucalyptus odorata*)

There is commonly a midstorey shrub layer within these communities dominated by *Acacia* and *Melaleuca* species and the understorey is dominated by grasses, sedges and small shrubs.

Distribution

Resin Wattle is a species endemic to South Australia. Within the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin populations are known to occur in the following areas:

- Murray Bridge/Brinkley
- Monarto
- Finniss

How you can help

Please be aware of native plants and help preserve them by:

- Preventing damage by grazing
- Preventing removal/illegal collection
- Preventing competition from weeds
- Never pick native flowers, take a photo instead
- Volunteering with NR SAMDB or join your local native vegetation group and help to look after a threatened plant population
- Reporting any sightings of Resin Wattle to the contacts listed below

For further information
Natural Resources Centre
 South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Murray Bridge: (08) 8532 9100
Berri: (08) 8580 1800
E: enquiries-samdb@sa.gov.au
www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin



Distribution of Resin Wattle in the SA MDB



Resin Wattle growing in a mixed Mallee vegetation association



Resin Wattle flower