# **COASTAL SHE-OAK**

Alternative name: Horsetail She-Oak,

Beach She-Oak

**FAMILY:** CASUARINACEAE

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** Casuarina equisetifolia





Form and size:	Tree to 12m Weeping, greyish branchlets, 1mm thick
Leaves:	Apparent leaves are

Apparent leaves are actually branchlets and

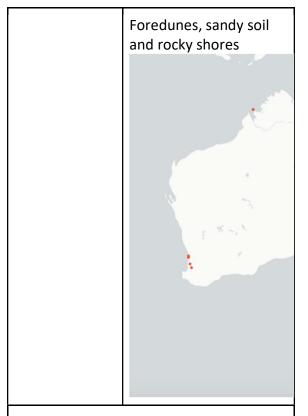
	the true leaves (in whorls of 4-8) are just visible to the naked eye when the needles are broken at a joint. Branchlets are fine, ridgid, needle-like and jointed with tiny teeth at each joint.
Bark:	Grey Lower trunk: rough Upper trunk and branches: smooth
Flowers:	Male and female flowers found on different trees.  Male flowers: Brownish, flowers consist of scale-like perianth (tubular) segments and one stamen.

Female flowers: Red, flowers lack a perianth and the fused carpels usually enclose only two ovules.

Flowering Period:

Edible - immature fruit Short woody cones 15mm in length June to January

Ecological notes:	Cones eaten by Red- tailed Black Cockatoo and Rainbow Lorikeet. Buds, flowers and foliage eaten by Rainbow Lorikeet. Larval food for moths.
Cultivation:	Grow from seed
Distribution:	Commonly found on the foreshores of Queensland, Northern Territory and New South Wales



# OTHER INFORMATION

<u>Disclaimer</u>: Rotary Club of Capricorn Coast can not take any responsibility for any adverse effects from the use of plants. Always seek advice from a professional before ingesting any part of a plant or using a plant medicinally.

**Bark:** Some Australian Aboriginal communities used the inner bark to plug aching tooth cavities or treat chronic diarrhoea.

Foliage: Mouthwash was made by soaking young twigs in water. Foliage and sometimes green fruit were chewed to promote salivation to help quench thirst. Timber: Timber is very hard and was used for spears and woomera pegs. Used as firewood.

**Sap:** Sap can be used to make a reddish brown dye.

# **QUIZ TIME**

- 1. The green tubular fronds are actually twigs not leaves?
  - 1. True
  - 2. False
- 2. Name two uses First Nations People had for the Coastal She-Oak.
- 3. What type of fruit does the Coastal She-Oak have?
- a. berries
- b. seeds
- c. cones
- d. nuts

#### **ANSWERS:**

- 1. A
- 2. Medicine for toothache and diarrhoea, to promote salvation, spears, woomera pegs and dye
- 3. C

# **REFERENCES**

CSIRO. (2020). Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants.

Melzer, R., & Plumb, J. (2011). *Plants of Capricornia*. Belgamba.

Williams, P., Kirkpatrick, S., Griffith University. Centre for Coastal Management, & Gold Coast (Qld.). Council. (2009). *Coastal Plant Pocket Guide*. Griffith Centre for Coastal Management.

#### Image 1

Lim, R. (2020). *Casuarina equisetifoli*a. <a href="https://www.flickr.com/photos/reulim/501">https://www.flickr.com/photos/reulim/501</a> <a href="https://www.flickr.com/photos/reulim/501">38610123</a>

# Image 2

Starr, F. and Starr, K. (2013). *Casuarina* equisetifolia tree.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:S tarr 031209-0048 Casuarina equisetifolia.jpg

#### Image 3

Martin, J. (2010). *Casuarina equisetifolia* flower.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:C asuarina equisetifolia EnfoqueFlores 26-10-2010 ParqueElPilarCiudadReal.jpg

#### Image 4

The Australasian Virtual Herbarium. (2021). *Casuarina equisetifolia*.

https://avh.ala.org.au/occurrences/search? taxa=Casuarina+equisetifolia#tab mapView