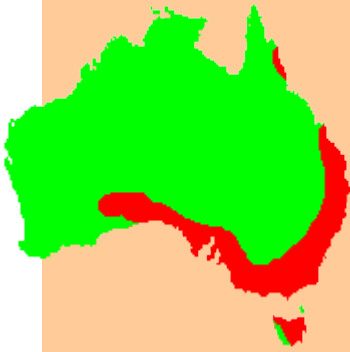


# Daviesia ulicifolia



<b>Family:</b>	Fabaceae subfamily Faboideae
<b>Distribution:</b>	Widespread in open forest from north Queensland to southern Tasmania and extending to South Australia and Western Australia.
<b>Common Name:</b>	Gorse bitter pea.
<b>Derivation of Name:</b>	<i>Daviesia</i> ... After Rev. Hugh Davies (1739-1821), botanist <i>ulicifolia</i> .... Having foliage like <i>Ulex</i> (gorse)
<b>Conservation Status:</b>	Not considered to be at risk in the wild.

## General Description:

The genus *Daviesia* consists of around 200 species, all of which are Australian endemics. They can be found in most states but mainly in the south-west of Western Australia. All are small to large shrubs.

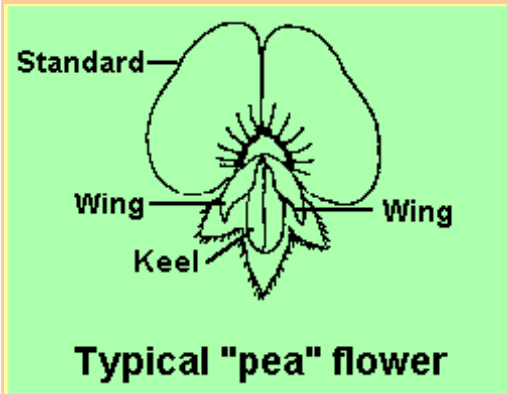


*Daviesia ulicifolia*

Photo: Brian Walters

*Daviesia ulicifolia* is a small to medium shrub to about 2 metres high. The leaves are elliptical or oval shaped between 5 and 20 mm long by 0.5 to 5 mm wide with a very sharp point (pungent) and are at right angles to the stems. Like some other species, the leaves could be described as flattened stems (phyllodes), similar to many acacias. The flowers have the typical "pea" shape consisting of 4 petals; the "standard", the "keel" and two "wings", as shown in the diagram. The flowers are yellow

with reddish/brown markings and occur either singly or in clusters from the leaf axils. Flowering generally occurs in late winter to early summer and flowers are followed by small, triangular seed pods.



*D. ulicifolia* is a variable species with several subspecies recognised. Further details can be found at the Sydney Royal Botanic Garden's [Plantnet site](#).

Daviesias are sometimes grown by enthusiasts but the genus is not in widespread cultivation. This is a pity as there are a number of species that would make excellent subjects for cultivation. Whether *D. ulicifolia* is one of these is debatable as many people would possibly not appreciate its very prickly habit. However, this is likely to be beneficial to small birds as a refuge from predators. The plant is very colourful when in flower.

Plants require a well drained soil in a sunny or partly shaded position.

Propagation is easy from seed following pre-treatment to break the physical dormancy provided by the impervious seed coat. Pre-treatment can be carried out by abrasion or by the use of boiling water (further details can be found in the [Seed Propagation](#) page). The seed retains viability for many years. Cuttings may be successful but are often slow to strike and may not produce a vigorous root system.