Rhagodia drummondii
Lake fringe rhagodia

Young leaves and flower spikes
Rhagodia drummondii

Lake fringe rhagodia

Plant features

Growth form
A perennial sprawling, spreading and somewhat tangled shrub, 0.1–2m high and 3m wide. The branches root when they come in contact with the soil. There are separate male and female plants.

Leaves
The leaves are 7–10mm long and 3mm wide, opposite or alternatively arranged, grey-green, fleshy, covered in fine grey hairs on the underside and spear shaped. Young stems appear slightly hairy. Young foliage can be pink.

Flowers
The flowers are very small and held on spikes on the end of stems which are also covered in fine grey hairs. They have virtually no petals. Flowers from Sept–Nov.

Fruits
Red berries form at the end of branches and contain black seeds 2mm in diameter.

Bark
Grey brown on oldest stems.

Distribution

Found as an occasional species throughout the Avon catchment and from Kalbarri to Esperance, east of the Darling Scarp and inland to the Goldfields.

Zone, habitat

Found on a variety of soils especially sand rises around salt lakes and saline waterways.

Additional information

An useful understorey shrub for saline waterways. It is quite palatable to both stock and native fauna and will readily recover from agricultural impacts if not subjected to overgrazing. Its ability to root into the soil and low habitat makes it a good soil stabiliser and provides shelter to fauna. It is slightly waterlogging tolerant as well as very drought and salt tolerant. Plants can be grown from tubestock or by direct seeding.