

Twiggy Daisy-Bush

Olearia ramulosa

NAMING: *Oleum* Latin - oil, *ramus* - branch, *osa* - an abundance.

DISTRIBUTION: *Olearia ramulosa*, commonly known as the Twiggy Daisy-Bush is endemic to south-eastern Australia.

HABITAT: It is drought hardy and frost tolerant. This shrub grows in a variety of environments, including coastal heathlands, forests and in a range of soils with a preference for well-drained soils. It thrives in rocky or sandy locations and is often found scattered along the coastline in sand dunes but also in woodland across the State.



DESCRIPTION: Twiggy Daisy Bush, is a shrub with numerous slender, branching stems that resemble twigs. It is very variable but typically grows to a height of 1.6m.

The **leaves** are arranged alternately along the stems. They are narrowly elliptic, linear or narrowly egg-shaped with the narrower end towards the base. Each leaf is 2–8mm long and 0.8–2.5mm wide with the edges rolled under. The upper surface of the leaf is covered with minute pimples and the lower surface is covered with grey, woolly hairs.



The plant produces small, daisy-like **flowers** that are typically white or pale purple and bloom in clusters. They emerge out of the leaf axils or from the ends of branches. They grow either on a short 14mm stem or are stemless arising directly from the branch. The heads are 10 – 20mm wide with a conical bract and 3 – 6mm long, at the base. Each head has 3 to 13 small yellow disc florets in its centre, surrounded by 2 to 13 pale blue, mauve or white ray florets. Flowering occurs from October to May. After flowering, the plant produces small, fluffy seed heads. These **seeds** are carried away by the wind due to their light, fluffy structure, helping the plant spread to new areas.

ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE Twiggy Daisy Bush plays a role in supporting local wildlife, including attracting pollinators like bees and butterflies. The flowers are a food source for these insects, contributing to the local ecosystem. It is sometimes used in landscaping for its ornamental value, particularly in native gardens, due to its attractive flowers and hardy nature.