

Coastal She-oak/ Horsetail She-oak



FAMILY: Casuarinaceae

HABIT: A medium sized tree with open spreading crown, often branching from a short trunk with dark grey bark.

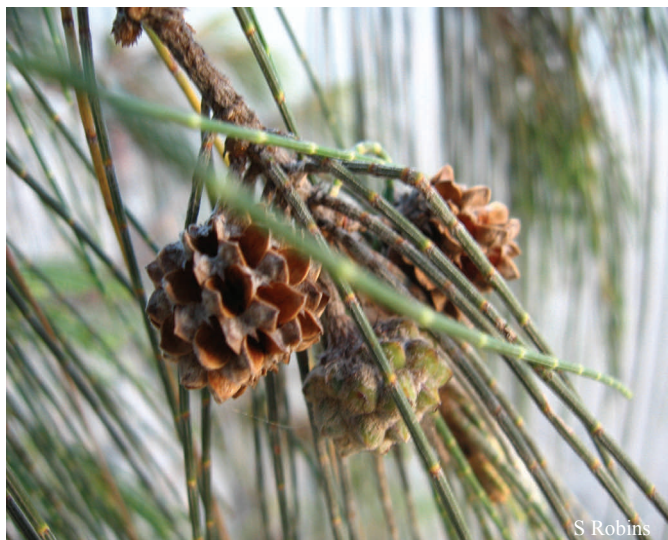
LEAVES: The weeping foliage is grey-green and pine-like with leaves reduced to scales in whorls of eight.

FLOWER/FRUIT: The brown male, and red female, flowers are borne on the same tree. Cones are cylindrical and are about 1.5cm long. Fruit matures from December to February.

PROPAGATION: The best time to collect cones is as they turn from green to brown and one or two chambers are just starting to open on the cone. Once picked they are best placed in a calico or brown paper bag and left in a warm spot. The cones will open releasing the seeds. Sow in a sandy medium.

LOCAL HABITAT: Coastal strand and foredunes.

DISTRIBUTION: Coastal Queensland, New South Wales, Northern Territory and overseas.



GENERAL: The first tree to appear during dune colonization, withstanding harsh, exposed coastal conditions, it gives protection to later trees. Parts of the tree have been used for tool making, dyes and medicinal purposes.

Seed eaten by Red Tailed Black-Cockatoos and buds, foliage and flowers eaten by Rainbow Lorikeets.

REFERENCES: Alcock & Champion 1989 *One Hundred and One Trees of Mackay*.
Melzer & Plumb 2007 *Plants of Capricornia*.