

Coastal Wattle

Acacia sophorae



Adaptation to environment

- Forms dense thickets & drop lots of mulch that help stabilise loose sand on dunes; provide shelter for many insects, birds & reptiles
- Nitrogen-fixing root nodules increase nutrients in soil
- Hard coated seed can survive many years in ground; seeds only germinate after heat from fire
- Young plants grow quickly when conditions are good.

Where do I live?

Frontal Dunes

What eats me?

- Caterpillars, beetle larvae, wallabies eat leaves
- Cicadas, scale insects suck sap
- Rosellas, cockatoos eat seeds
- Bees & other insects eat pollen.

- Spreading shrub to 2 m
- True leaves only on seedlings; mature “leaves” are modified stems (phyllodes)
- Aboriginal people ate roasted ripening seed pods & seeds.

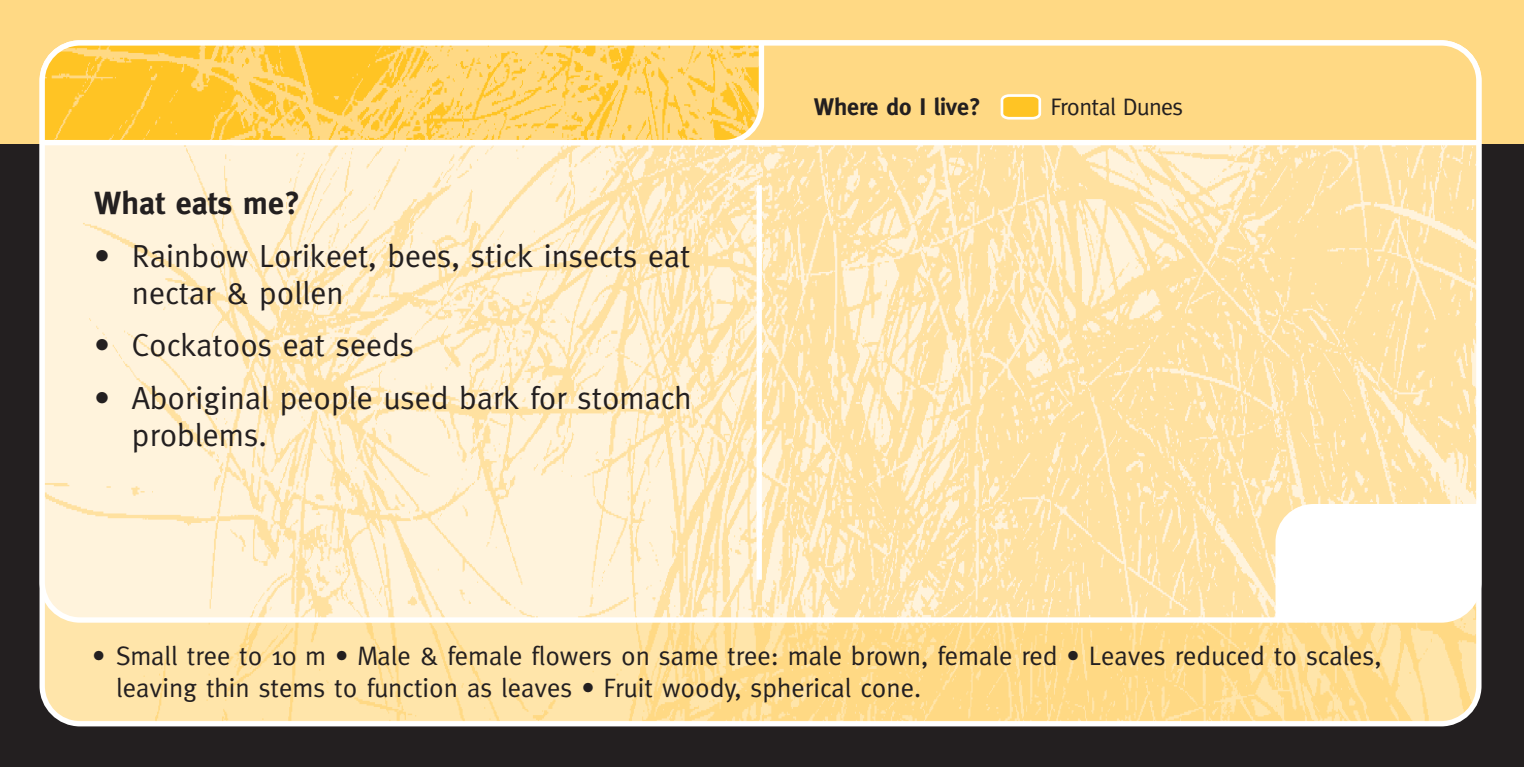
Coastal she-oak

Casuarina equisetifolia



Adaptation to environment

- Constantly falling “leaves” produce large quantity of mulch that help conserve moisture & stop erosion on exposed dunes
- Thick bark to preserve water & protect from fire
- Strong flexible branches can withstand strong winds
- Can survive in soil with little nutrient by being ‘mycorrhizal’ – roots with fungus that helps access nutrients
- Tough, hairy ‘cladodes’ (leaf-like stems) reduce water loss.



Where do I live?

Frontal Dunes

What eats me?

- Rainbow Lorikeet, bees, stick insects eat nectar & pollen
- Cockatoos eat seeds
- Aboriginal people used bark for stomach problems.

- Small tree to 10 m
- Male & female flowers on same tree: male brown, female red
- Leaves reduced to scales, leaving thin stems to function as leaves
- Fruit woody, spherical cone.

Beach Spinifex

Spinifex sericeus



Adaptation to environment

- Narrow leaves curled to protect inner surface with stomata; outer surface hairy as shield against wind, sand & salt
- Long, tough stems & roots help bind loose sand
- Long, fast-growing stems help plants quickly invade new areas
- Large seed heads tumbled along beaches by wind & dispersed by ocean currents.



Where do I live? Frontal Dunes

What eats me?

- Cicada nymphs suck sap from roots
- Sand scarab beetle larvae eat roots.

- Tough grass
- Blades 10 - 40 cm with stems several metres long
- Most common species on exposed beaches & frontal dunes
- Aboriginal people used stems to make dilly bags & sieves; seed head was a children's toy.

Mangrove Cicada

Arunta interclusa



Adaptation to environment

- Females lay eggs in plants in sand dunes on ocean side of island & nymphs feed on sap from grass roots including Spinifex; when adults emerge, they fly to mangroves on other side of island
- Males sing loudly to attract females & can be heard up to a kilometre away; this may be loud enough to drive birds away.

Feeding relationships

Where do I live?



Mangrove Shore



Frontal Dunes

What do I eat?

- Nymphs use their piercing mouthparts to suck sap from roots
- Adults suck sap from trees.

What eats me?

- Bandicoots dig up nymphs
- Birds, bats, gliders, spiders, lizards eat adults
- Spider-killer wasps use cicadas to feed larvae.

- Length 25 - 31 mm
- Forewing 36 – 43 mm
- Common on Moreton Bay islands, especially in Grey Mangroves.

Northern Brown Bandicoot

Isoodon macrourus



Adaptation to environment

- Long pointed snout with lots of sharp teeth for locating, catching & eating prey
- Long sharp claws for digging, makes many small holes in its nightly foraging
- Makes a loud “balloon screech” if disturbed.

Feeding relationships

Where do I live?

Frontal Dunes

Mixed Woodland

Swamp

What do I eat?

- Insect larvae, roots & worms which it digs small holes to find
- Grass seeds & berries.

What eats me?

- Large snakes, Lace Monitor
- Eagles, hawks, owls.

• Length: body 40cm • Short tail 14 cm; tail often missing • Mass: 2 kg • Nocturnal • Ground dwelling.

Agile Wallaby

Macropus agilis



Adaptation to environment

- Darker on top than underneath, providing effective camouflage
- Powerful back legs make them fast-moving & agile (hence the name)
- Greatly enlarged premolar teeth to help crack thick stems, nuts, fruits etc.

Feeding relationships

Where do I live?



Mangrove Shore



Swamp



Mixed Woodland



Frontal Dunes

What do I eat?

- Plants: particularly soft-bodied plants & has removed many of these from coastal dunes.

What eats me?

- Young are eaten by dingoes, pythons & eagles
- Aboriginal people hunted them
- No other natural predators on South Stradbroke, resulting in over-population.

- Length: Body 80 cm, tail 77cm • Mass: 9 - 27 kg • Breeding: single young born after gestation of 30 days; lives in pouch 7-8 months.

Bearded dragon

Pogona barbata



Adaptation to environment

- For protection, makes a fearsome display by opening its mouth and erecting a spiny pouch or “beard” beneath its throat to display a bright yellow mouth
- Well camouflaged & has tough spiny skin.

Feeding relationships

Where do I live?

Frontal Dunes

Mixed Woodland

Swamp

What do I eat?

- Insects
- Flowers, fleshy leaves.

What eats me?

- Snakes, goannas
- Large birds.

- Length: 55 cm
- Often incorrectly called a “Frilly”
- Common in dry forests, woodlands & exposed areas like dunes.