

Saw-leaf Banksia

Banksia serrata



Adaptation to environment

- Hard, sharp-edged leaves discourage leaf feeders
- Seeds protected from fire in large, woody capsule; seeds only released after fire to germinate in fresh ash
- Winged seeds widely dispersed by wind
- Thick corky bark protects tree from fire; after fire, quickly re-grows new shoots from 'epicormic buds'
- Fine 'proteoid' roots help extract nutrients from poor soil.



Where do I live? Woodland Frontal Dunes

What eats me?

- Lorikeets, honeyeaters, possums & gliders, bees & other insects eat abundant nectar
- Aboriginal people soaked flowers in water to make sweet drink.



- Small tree to 16 m • Leaves with saw-shaped edges, pale underneath • Large, “candle-shaped” pale yellow flowers
- Straight trunk • Named for Joseph Banks, botanist on Captain Cook’s voyage.