

## Plant of the Month - June

by Allan Carr

### *Dillwynia floribunda*

**Pronunciation:** dill-WIN-ee-a flor-i-BUND-a

**Derivation:** *Dillwynia*, after Lewis Weston Dillwyn 19<sup>th</sup> century British botanist; *floribunda*, from the Latin, *flora* - flower, *bundum* - plenty (abundant flowers).

*Dillwynia* is an endemic genus of about 29 species, most of which occur in NSW and usually inhabit sandy heathland or sclerophyll forest. There are 5 species in south-east Qld. They are similar to the closely related *Aotus*, *Daviesia*, *Phyllota* and *Pultenaea* species.

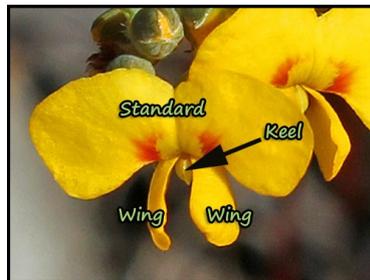
**Description:** *D. floribunda* is a small, dense, well-branched shrub to 1.5 m x 1 m with hairy stems, sometimes almost hairless. It was first collected in the Sydney area.

**Leaves** to 15 mm x 2 mm are alternate, mostly at an acute angle to the stems and sometimes spirally twisted. They are mostly smooth but can have tiny raised hair bases and appear round but have a grooved upper surface. These features are just visible in the first photo.

**Flowers** to 12 mm across are pea-shaped with a broad \*standard, usually in pairs in the upper leaf axils and extending down the branches. They are bright yellow, usually with red central markings and can be present from May to October. Often they are crowded on the stem, giving the impression of a terminal \*inflorescence, as they are so closely packed together.

**Fruits** to 7 mm across are sparsely hairy, inflated, oval-shaped pods with a few tiny, smooth brown seeds.

\*standard = the upper petal of a pea-shaped flower (typical pea flowers consist of 5 irregularly shaped petals; the "standard", two "wings" and two lower petals joined along their upper edge to form the "keel")



\*inflorescence = arrangement in which flowers are borne



Crowded flowers with morning dew drops

### showy parrot pea

FABACEAE



Leaves, buds



Pea-shaped flowers



Maturing fruits



Hairy empty pods, leaf detail



Habit in wallum heathland