

## Pine Heath

*Astroloma pinifolium*



Family: Ericaceae

small prostrate shrub or groundcover to 1 m



**Distribution:** South from Evans Head, NSW. Endemic to eastern Australia.

**Description:** Hairy stems are densely packed with pine-like leaves, tubular flowers are found singly along the stems, either yellow or pink with a band of yellow, green at the tip. Flowers in spring and summer are followed by pale green globular berries, sweet when fully ripe.

**Propagation:** propagated from cuttings. Seed is best sown fresh and some form of scarification is necessary or the seed can take up to 5 years to germinate.

**Habitat:** Grows in dry heath or sclerophyll forest on ridges and slopes on sandy soils over sandstone. Can be grown in well-drained soils or in containers in part shade. Keep moist.

**Uses:** The Tasmanian subspecies of the Grey Currawong (known locally as Clinking Currawong or Black Jay) appears especially fond of the berries.