

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia acinacea Lindl.



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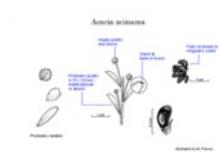
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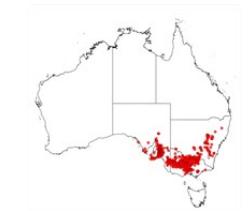
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Acacia acinacea occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.alb.org.au>).

Common Name

Gold-dust Wattle, Round-leaved Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Widespread in south-eastern Australia from near Melrose, S.A., throughout most of Vic. and N to Eumungerie and Gulgong, N.S.W.

Description

Bushy or straggly open shrub, commonly to c. 2.5 m high. Branchlets somewhat angled at extremities, glabrous or hairy. Phyllodes somewhat asymmetric, narrowly oblong-elliptic, oblanceolate, broadly obovate or circular, usually 4–15 mm long and 2–8 mm wide with l:w = 1–5, ±obtuse and normally eccentrically mucronulate, green, glabrous or hairy; midrib obscure or absent; lateral nerves absent; glands 2, adjacent to mucro and near or below middle of phyllode, not prominent. Inflorescences normally 1-headed, rudimentary racemes with axes c. 0.5 mm long, 1 or 2 per axil; peduncles 4–20 mm long, slender, glabrous; heads prolific, globular, 4–4.5 mm diam., 8–20-flowered, golden. Flowers 5-merous; sepals free. Pods circinate to irregularly twisted or spirally coiled, 3–4.5 mm wide, crustaceous, glabrous. Seeds longitudinal, ±oblong, 4–5 mm long, shiny, dark brown; aril clavate, 1/4–1/2 length of seed.

Habitat

Grows mostly in sand, sandy loam and gravelly soil, in hilly country, in eucalypt woodland, woodland heath and open mallee scrub.

Specimens

S.A.: 5 km S of Monarto, M.E.Lawrence 216 (MEL); c. 8 km W of American R. on road to Kingscote, Kangaroo Is., P.G.Wilson 914 (AD, MEL). N.S.W.: 1 km N of Sutton turn-off on Federal Hwy, M.D.Crisp 2194 (AD, MO, NSW); Goonoo State Forest, H.M.R.Rupp (NSW178696). Vic.: 7.2 km S of Kamarooka, Bendigo District, H.I.Aston 437 (MEL).

Notes

A member of the '*A. microcarpa* group' most closely related to *A. triquetra* which normally has uni-glandular phyllodes and straight to slightly curved pods. The few specimens with longer than normal phyllodes (i.e. 15–25 mm) may resemble *A. microcarpa* which has slightly to prominently curved pods, and obtuse phyllodes with larger glands (0.5 mm long). A variant with larger than normal glands occurs in the North Mount Lofty Ra., S.A. (e.g. B.Copley 5311, AD); it is distinguished from *A. microcarpa* by smaller phyllodes

(8–16 ´ 2.5–6 mm) which are normally obviously mucronulate; typical *A. acinacea* also occurs in this same region. Sometimes resembles *A. rhetinocarpa*. A registered cultivar, 'Ruby Tips', is recognized within *A. acinacea*.

Shape, size and indumentum of the phyllodes are extremely variable and detailed studies are required to elucidate the complex patterns of variation (fide B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 6: 40–42, 1987, for details). Specimens with ±orbicular phyllodes are sometimes treated as *A. cyclophylla* (phyllodes hairy on type) or more commonly *A. rotundifolia* (phyllodes glabrous on type). The entity referred to as *A. rotundifolia* is often similar to *A. glandulicarpa* in phyllode shape and size.

FOA Reference

Data derived from *Flora of Australia* Volumes 11A (2001), 11B (2001) and 12 (1998), products of ABRS, ©Commonwealth of Australia

Author

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Minor edits by B.R.Maslin

This identification key and fact sheets are available as a mobile application:

