

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia acinacea Lindl.



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Acacia acinacea occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.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 $l:w = 1-5$, \pm **obtuse** and normally excentrically **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 **circinnate** to irregularly twisted or spirally **coiled**, 3–4.5 mm wide, **crustaceous**, **glabrous**. Seeds **longitudinal**, \pm **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 \times 2.5–6 mm) which are normally obviously mucronulate; typical *A. acinacea* also occurs in this same region. Sometimes resembles *A. rheticocarpa*. 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 (*vide* B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 6: 40–42, 1987, for details). Specimens with \pm 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

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Minor edits by B.R.Maslin

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



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Department of the Environment and Energy



Department of
Biodiversity, Conservation
and Attractions
Western Australian Herbarium



Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



URL: <https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/wattle>
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