WATTLE
Acacias of Australia

Acacia ampliceps Maslin

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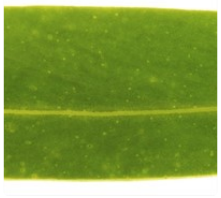

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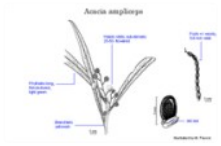

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Acacia ampliceps occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (https://www.ala.org.au).

Common Name

Salt Wattle, Spring Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Widespread from Wooramel, through the Pilbara district, northern Great Sandy Desert and southern Kimberley region, W.A., E to Mataranka and Renner Springs, N.T.

Description

Bushy, rather untidy, large shrubs or small trees commonly 3–5 m tall, sometimes 6–7 (–9) m tall, occasionally prostrate. Branchlets often pendulous, yellowish, glabrous. Phyllodes commonly pendulous, variable, linear to lanceolate, sometimes narrowly obovate, 7–25 (–30) cm long, 7–30 (–40) mm wide, ±thin, light green, glabrous, prominently 1-nerved, penninerved; glands 2, with lowermost prominent, 0–3 mm above pulvinus, and uppermost smaller and at base of mucro. Inflorescences terminal or axillary 2–11-headed racemes, with secondary phyllode sometimes developed at base of peduncles; raceme axes to 10 cm long, robust, glabrous, subtended when very young by bracts; peduncles 5–20 (–25) mm long, robust, glabrous; heads globular, large, subdense, 25-50-flowered, white to cream, not showy. Flowers 5-merous; calyx united, ±truncate or sinuate-toothed. Pods submoniliform, breaking readily at constrictions, to 11.5 cm long, 4–6 mm wide, ±woody, glabrous. Seeds longitudinal, oblong, 5–6.5 mm long, ±shiny, greyish brown to black; aril scarlet.

Phenology

Flowers May–Aug.

Habitat

Grows in sand or clay along watercourses, or in swales between coastal sandhills.

Specimens

W.A.: Millstream, *M.I.H.Brooker 2059* (MEL, NSW, PERTH); upper Rudall R. area, *B.R.Maslin 2296* (AD, CANB, K, MEL, NY, PERTH); 111 km E of Broome towards Derby, *B.R.Maslin 2676* (AD, K, MEL, NY, PERTH); Wolf Creek Crater, 13 July 1974, *J.H.Willis* (PERTH). N.T.: Coomarie Springs, *J.Maconochie 1733* (PERTH).

Notes

A member of the '*A. bivenosa* group', distinguished most readily from *A. ligulata* and *A. salicina* by a combination of its thin, light green, commonly pendulous phyllodes, white, many-flowered heads and narrower pods. Past confusion of this species with *A. salicina* (syn. *A. varians*) is discussed by B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 1: 316 (1974).

A moderately fast-growing but short-lived species which frequently spreads by root-suckering to form monospecific stands on moist sites. It has great potential for use in reclamation of salt-affected areas and as a low windbreak, *fide* J.W.Turnbull (ed.), *Multi-purpose Austral. Trees & Shrubs* 96–97 (1986). The foliage is very susceptible to insect attack.

Hybridises with *A. bivenosa* (see *A. ampliceps* × *bivenosa*) and probably also with *A. sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma* (see *A. ampliceps* × *sclerosperma* subsp.

sclerosperma) in the Pilbara region, W.A.

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

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