

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia ampliceps Maslin x *Acacia bivenosa* DC.



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See illustration.

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Scattered in W.A. from the Pilbara region N to the Dampier Pen. (N of Broome) and Fitzroy Crossing in the southern Kimberley region.

Description

Large, bushy, spreading, **glabrous shrub** 2–4 (–5) m high. Phyllodes spreading to \pm erect, **narrowly oblong-elliptic** to **oblanceolate**, mostly \pm straight, (5–) 6–12 cm long, 10–25 (–30) mm wide, dull green or subglaucous; **midrib** prominent, commonly less pronounced **nerve** parallel on **adaxial** side of **midrib**; **gland** 0–4 mm above **pulvinus**, a smaller **gland** often present at base of **mucro**. Inflorescences **simple** and/or **racemose**, racemes 1.5–4 (–10) cm long and often growing out; peduncles (9–) 15–32 mm long; heads lemon yellow, 20–35-flowered. Flowers 5-merous; **calyx truncate** to sinuate-toothed. Pods submoniliform, breaking readily into 1-seeded segments at the constrictions, 4–8 cm long, 5–7 mm wide, **woody** to **coriaceous** to **crustaceous**, yellowish brown. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong**, c. 5 mm long, dark brown; **funicle/aril** folded beneath the seed, orange-brown and waxy-looking when dry (?red when fresh).

Phenology

Flowers July–Aug.

Habitat

Grows along drainage lines or diffuse watercourses in sand or clay soils and appears to tolerate high levels of salinity.

Specimens

W.A.: Buckley's Bore, *J.B.Martin* 112 (PERTH); c. 3 km due E of Wickham, *B.R.Maslin* 8815 (PERTH); Ragged Hills Lead Mine, c. 130 km SE of Shay Gap, *K.R.Newbey* 10462 (MEL, PERTH).

Notes

Possibly has some horticultural potential, see B.R.Maslin *et al.*, *Wattles of the Pilbara* CD-ROM (2010), for discussion. The phyllodes of this putative hybrid are not as severely attacked by leaf-eating insects as are those of *A. ampliceps*.

The hybrid status of this entity is based on field observations and morphology of specimens examined; it is often found in populations (commonly at a low frequency) with both presumed parents. *Acacia ampliceps* x *bivenosa* differs from both presumed parents in having lemon yellow heads; it is further distinguished from *A. ampliceps* in having shorter, straighter and often imperfectly 2-nerved phyllodes and from *A. bivenosa* by its longer phyllodes. In the Pilbara *A. ampliceps* also putatively hybridizes with *A. sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma* (see *A. ampliceps* x *sclerosperma*); these hybrids are less common than *A. ampliceps* x *bivenosa* and are recognized by their narrower, consistently 1-nerved phyllodes and wider pods. Phyllodes of *A. ampliceps* x *bivenosa* may sometimes resemble those of *A. bivenosa* x *sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma*.

FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

Author

B.R.Maslin

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



Australian Government
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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