

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia ampliceps* Maslin x *Acacia bivenosa* DC.



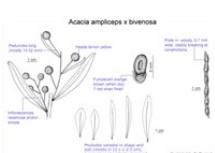
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See illustration.

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B.R. Maslin

#### 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 ±erect, **narrowly oblong-elliptic** to **ob lanceolate**, mostly ±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/are** 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.: Buckleys 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* × *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* × *sclerosperma*); these hybrids are less common than *A. ampliceps* × *bivenosa* and are recognized by their narrower, consistently 1-nerved phyllodes and wider pods. Phyllodes of *A. ampliceps* × *bivenosa* may sometimes resemble those of *A. bivenosa* × *sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma*.

#### FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

#### Author

B.R.Maslin

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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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