

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia ampliceps Maslin x *Acacia sclerosperma* F.Muell. subsp. *sclerosperma*



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See illustration.

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Of scattered occurrence in the Pilbara region of north-western W.A. where it is recorded from around Karratha, Millstream, Panawonica, Paraburdoo and on Hillside and De Grey stations.

Description

Bushy, spreading, **glabrous shrub** or **tree** 2–5 m high. Phyllodes spreading to **erect**, commonly **linear**, sometimes narrowly **oblanceolate** or **narrowly oblong elliptic**, **straight** to shallowly **curved**, (8–) 9–14 (–16) cm long, (2–) 3–10 (–15) mm wide, not **rigid**, green; **midrib** rather prominent; **gland** 0–6 (–15) mm above **pulvinus**, a smaller **gland** at or near base of **mucre**. Inflorescences **racemose**, the racemes 3–20 mm long often growing out (with the subsequent inflorescences **simple**); peduncles 8–20 mm long; heads lemon yellow, **sub-densely** 15–25-flowered. Flowers 5-**merous**; **calyx** \pm **truncate**. Pods submoniliform, breaking readily at constrictions, 8–13 cm long, 8–12 mm wide, **woody**, yellowish brown. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong** to **elliptic**, 7–9 mm long, 4.5–7 mm wide, rather **turgid**, dark brown to blackish; **aril** rather small, orange to brown when dry (?red when fresh).

Phenology

Flowers July–Aug.

Habitat

Grows on floodplains, clay pans or along watercourses; around Karratha it occurs in the coastal dunes along seasonally dry creeks.

Specimens

W.A.: Back beach, Karratha, *G.Craig* 393 (PERTH); Bamboo Springs Stn, 35 km NW of Bonnie Downs HS on rd to Hillside Stn, *B.R.Maslin* 8506 (CANB, MEL, PERTH).

Notes

The hybrid status of this entity is based on field observations and morphology of specimens examined; it has been found in a number of populations (at a low frequency) with both presumed parents. The putative hybrids are recognized by their lemon yellow heads (white in *A. ampliceps*, golden in *A. sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma*) and their phyllodes (and to some extent their pods) which are intermediate in width between the putative parents. In the Pilbara *A. ampliceps* also hybridizes with *A. bivenosa* (see *A. ampliceps* x *bivenosa* for discussion). *Acacia ampliceps* x *sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma* is sometimes sympatric with *A. bivenosa* x *sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma* (see the latter for discussion). For further information see B.R.Maslin *et al.*, *Wattles of the Pilbara* CD-ROM (2010).

FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

Author

B.R.Maslin

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



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