

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia ancistrocarpa Maiden & Blakely



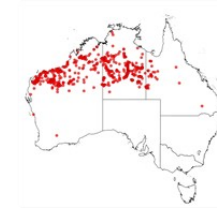
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Acacia ancistrocarpa occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Fitzroy Wattle, Pirraru

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Widespread in tropical W.A., N.T. and Qld between 17°S and 24°S, and W of 139°E.

Description

Fastigiate, multi-stemmed, shrub 1.5–4 m high. Bark grey, longitudinally fissured towards base of mature stems otherwise smooth. Branchlets angular, often flexuose, pale yellowish orange or red-brown, glabrous. Phyllodes linear, or very narrowly elliptic, straight or slightly falcate, (4.5–) 6–18 cm long, (2–) 3–10 (–13) mm wide, coriaceous, somewhat shiny, bright olive-green, glabrous, with 1–3 subprominent yellowish main nerves; minor inconspicuous nerves 3 or 4 per mm, with rare anastomoses; marginal nerve discrete and yellowish; glands inconspicuous, 2 or 3, marginal. Spikes 2.5–4.5 cm long, golden; peduncles 5–15 (–25) mm long. Flowers 5-merous; calyx 0.5–0.8 mm long, dissected to 1/3, glabrous or slightly tomentose; corolla 1.5–1.8 mm long, dissected to 1/2, glabrous; ovary ±tomentose. Pods narrowly oblong or cultrate, tapered at both ends, the apex ±hooked, slightly indented or straight-sided, 6–11.5 cm long, often erect, crustaceous to subwoody, obliquely reticulate, brown to dark brown, glabrous, resinous, dehiscing elastically (valves recurved following dehiscence); seed-partitions well marked; marginal nerve thick. Seeds oblique, broadly oblong- to ±oblong-elliptic or ±ovate, 6–7 mm long, brownish black; pleurogram fine, with yellowish halo (outer band pitted); areole open, depressed.

Phenology

Flowers late Feb.–July.

Habitat

Grows usually in mallee-spinifex communities and in stony spinifex grasslands, and in shrub-steppes and along watercourses, in deep red sands and skeletal soils on lateritic plains.

Specimens

W.A.: S of Yanrey Stn turnoff, *A.M.Ashby* 5191 (NSW, PERTH); West Hardman R., *M.Lazarides* 6498 (CANB, NSW). N.T.: 16.9 miles [27.2 km] N [of] Tanami, *G.Chippendale s.n.* (NSW, NT5613); 4 miles [6.4 km] W of Frewena Roadhouse, Barkly Hwy, *J.Must* 529 (DNA, NSW). Qld: 3 miles [4.8 km] SE of Barkly Downs Stn, *R.A.Perry* 739 (CANB, NSW).

Notes

Usually killed by fire but regenerates profusely from seed. Used extensively in land rehabilitation in the Pilbara because it produces large quantities of seed that is easy to collect, its preference for disturbed sites and its rapid growth rate. Further details of its ecology, utilisation, etc. are given in J.W.Turnbull (Ed.), *Multipurpose Austral. Trees & Shrubs* 98 (1986). Details of Aboriginal use are given by P.Latz, *Bushfires & Bushtucker* 87 (1995).

In the Pilbara, W.A., this species commonly hybridizes with *A. stellaticeps* (see *A. sphaerostachya*) and rarely with *A. citrinoviridis* (see *A. ancistrocarpa* × *citrinoviridis*), *A. arida* and *A. orthocarpa*. Plants described by B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 4: 405–407 (1983), as *A. ancistrocarpa* × *trachycarpa* are now referable to *A. trachycarpa* × *tumida* var. *pilbarensis*.

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



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