

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia aptaneura (short/broad phyllode variant)

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

These plants are most common in the general vicinity of Sandstone, but it also occurs NW of Meekatharra and E of Wiluna. See also below regarding possible Pilbara occurrences.

Description

Multi-stemmed shrubs or trees 3–6 m tall. Branchlet resin-ribs absent or **vestigial**, resin (when present) translucent). Phyllodes narrowly **elliptic** or sometimes +/- **linear**, mostly 25–60 mm long and 2–4 mm wide with l: w = 7–25, shallowly **incurved**, normally green, sometimes **sub-glaucous**. Pods orange to light brown, obscurely nerved to nerveless, **glabrous**, margins rimmed or sometimes bevel-edged on one margin.

Specimens

W.A.: 19.5 km E of Wiluna on road to Gunbarrel Highway, *B.R. Maslin 9032* (PERTH); 92 km NW of Meekatharra on road to Gascoyne Junction, *B.R. Maslin 9071* (PERTH); 69 km S of Mt Magnet – Leinster Road on Sandstone – Paynes Find Road, *B.R. Maslin 9923* (PERTH).

Notes

These plants have the general facies of *A. aptaneura*, differing most obviously in their relatively short & broad phyllodes that are commonly narrowly elliptic (phyllodes linear in *A. aptaneura*). Phyllodes superficially very similar to some morphotypes of *A. aneura* but the rimmed pods distinguish it from that species. The taxonomic status of these short/broad variants is uncertain; they may possibly represent hybrids involving either *A. aptaneura* or *A. macraneura*, but the second parent is unknown.

This entity is noted by B.R.Maslin & J.E.Reid, *Nuytsia* 22: 179 (2012) under *A. aptaneura*, vouchered by *B.R. Maslin & J.E. Reid BRM 9730*

Some of the plants from woodland communities in the West Angelas area of the Pilbara region (about 350 km N of Sandstone) superficially resemble those from Sandstone; however, it is not known if they represent the same biological entity. This woodland variant of *A. aptaneura* is discussed by B.R.Maslin & J.E.Reid, *Nuytsia* 22: 179–180 (2012) and is illustrated in Figure 16A of that work; however, it should be noted that there are plants of typical *A. aptaneura* that occur also in these woodland communities All Pilbara plants that are provisionally referred here to *Acacia aptaneura* (short/broad phyllode variant) are sterile. Further study, including genetic information, is needed to properly assess the status of both the Sandstone/Wiluna and Pilbara populations.

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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