

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia auriculiformis A.Cunn. ex Benth.



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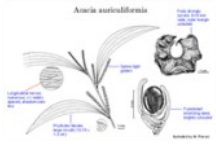
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Acacia auriculiformis occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Northern Black Wattle, Ear-pod Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs on Cape York Peninsula, Qld, N of 17°S, and in the N.T. N of 14°S; also recorded from New Guinea and the Kei Is., *vide* L.Pedley, *Contrib. Queensland Herb.* 18: 17 (1975), and parts of Indonesia between 11°S and 17°S.

Description

Glabrous tree to 35 m high. Bark **fissured**, grey to black. **Branchlets** flattened towards apices, \pm **glabrous**. Phyllodes **linear** to very narrowly **elliptic**, **falcate**, (8–) 10–20 (–22.5) cm long, (10–) 12–30 (–52) mm wide, with 3 subprominent **longitudinal** nerves mostly remaining separate from one another (and the margin) until near base; minor nerves (2–) 3–6 per mm, sparingly **anastomosing**; **gland** 1, basal, to 3 mm above **pulvinus**. Spikes 5–8.5 cm long, **interrupted**, yellow. Flowers 5–merous; **calyx** 0.9–1.3 mm long, dissected for 1/4–1/3, **glabrous**; **corolla** 1.7–2.4 mm long, dissected for c. 1/2, **glabrous**; **ovary** densely **pubescent**. Pods strongly **curved** to form an open coil, flat but outer margins prominently **undulate**, 3.2–16 cm long, 8–15 (–18) mm wide, **coriaceous** to \pm **woody**, lightly **pruinose**, **glabrous**, transversely nerved. Seeds \pm transverse, **elliptic** to broadly **elliptic**, flattened, 3.6–5.6 mm long, dark brown to black; **pleurogram** dark; **areole** open; **funicle** encircling seed.

Phenology

Flowers Feb.–Aug.

Habitat

Grows in well-drained sandy or loamy sand soils, beside watercourses and swamps, in closed or low open forests.

Specimens

N.T.: Bathurst Is. township, *I.V.Newman* 870 (MEL, NSW); Fogg Dam area, *M.D.Tindale* 6097 & *C.Dunlop* (CANB, K, NSW). Qld: Cabbage Tree Ck, *R.G.Coveny* 7035 & *P.Hind* (A, AD, BRI, CANB, E, K, L, MEL, NSW, NU, QRS, UC, US); Wenlock R., at Moreton Telegraph Office, Cape York Peninsula, 7 Oct. 1973, *J.T.Waterhouse* (NSW, UNSW).

Notes

Details of ecology, utilisation, etc. of *A. auriculiformis* are given in J.W.Turnbull (ed.), *Multipurpose Austral. Trees & Shrubs* 108 (1986).

Often difficult to distinguish from *A. polystachya* in the absence of pods; apart from differences in spike colour (light golden in *A. auriculiformis*, \pm white to pale yellow in *A. polystachya*) they differ in details of phyllode nervation: in *A. polystachya* the most prominent nerves of the phyllodes run together and often join some distance above the base whereas in *A. auriculiformis* these nerves remain separated from one another. *Acacia auriculiformis* is sometimes superficially similar to *A. aulacocarpa* and related species in general phyllode and pod morphology but is readily distinguished in having widely spaced, anastomosing phyllode nerves and a bright yellow funicle which encircles the seed. A putative natural hybrid between *A. lamprocarpa* and *A. auriculiformis* occurs at Holmes Jungle, N.T. and a putative garden hybrid between *A. auriculiformis* and *A. spirorbis* subsp. *solandri* is known from Townsville, Qld (i.e. *E.M.Jakes* s.n., BRI 847069).

FOA Reference

Data derived from *Flora of Australia* Volumes 11A (2001), 11B (2001) and 12 (1998), products of ABRS, ©Commonwealth of Australia

Author

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



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