

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia calligera (Pedley) Pedley



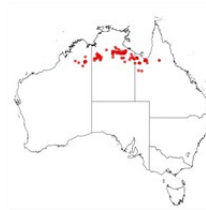
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Acacia calligera occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in northern Australia from the Kimberley region, W.A., through N.T. to the Normanton area in NW Qld.

Description

Spreading, **glabrous, resinous shrub** mostly 0.5–1.5 m high, sometimes flat-topped. **Branchlets** with prominent, resin-crenulated ribs. Phyllodes **patent to ascending**, mostly **ovate to elliptic or oblong-elliptic** and often dimidiate, occasionally **±orbicular, straight** or rarely slightly **recurved** at apices, often slightly to markedly **undulate**, (0.3–) 0.5–1.5 (–2) cm long, (2–) 3–7 (–8) mm wide, l:w = 1–3, green to **±glaucous**, marginal **nerve** yellowish, (3–) 5–7-nerved, the nerves widely spaced, obscure or pronounced and with the central one normally the most pronounced; apex with a small, slightly thickened, beak-shaped, **curved mucro** which is **deflexed** (not **erect**) and commonly **±adnate to phyllode margin**; **gland** inconspicuous, 0.5–2 mm above the **vestigial pulvinus**. Inflorescences **simple**; peduncles (3–) 5–10 (–16) mm long; spikes (0.8–) 1–3.5 cm long, sulphur yellow to golden. Flowers 5-**merous**; **calyx gamosepalous**, shortly dissected; petals with prominent **midrib**. Pods **±narrowly oblanceolate**, sometimes very narrowly **elliptic to linear**, basally tapered, **straight-sided**, flat, 2–6 (–9) long, (4–) 5–6 (–8) mm wide, firmly **crustaceous to ±woody**, obliquely nerved, opening elastically from apex, the dehiscent valves **recurved**; margins thickened and pale-coloured. Seeds **oblique** in distinct chambers, **narrowly oblong-elliptic**, 3–3.5 mm long, brown to dark brown; **areole** open, with pale halo; **funicle-aril** narrowly **turbinate**.

Phenology

Flowers Feb.–Aug. (?Nov.); young pods often occurring with flowers.

Habitat

Grows in often red, sand or clay loams, or lateritic or skeletal soils, in shrubland or in open eucalypt savannah woodland with grass (often spinifex) understorey, on ridges, escarpments or plains. Sometimes forming dense thickets.

Specimens

W.A.: Tanami track, W of Halls Ck, D.Keith & B.Pellow 156 (NSW, SYD n.v.); 27.4 km S of Rockhole Stn, *M.Lazarides* 6367 (BRI, CANB n.v., NSW). N.T.: 35.2 mi [56.3 km] W of O.T. Downs, 11 Mar. 1959, *G.Chippendale* 5499 (CANB, DNA, K n.v., NSW, PERTH); Seigal Creek Outstation, S of Calvert Hills, N.M.Henry 770 (BRI, CANB, DNA, NSW n.v.). Qld: 18 km E of 'Wernadinga', Burketown–Normanton road, *D.H.Benson* 863 (NSW); between Cliffdale Ck and Westmoreland Stn, R.Pullen 9166 (CANB, DNA, NSW).

Notes

Plants of *A. calligera* from W.A. and western N.T. often have phyllodes that diverge at a more acute angle (i.e. ascending) than elsewhere. Also, the westernmost plants commonly have dimidiate phyllodes (i.e. lower margin **±straight**, upper margin **convex**) whereas further east the phyllodes are normally symmetric with both margins **convex**.

Acacia wickhamii is most readily distinguished from *A. calligera* by the apical mucro of its phyllodes which is **±straight and erect** (not curved or deflexed as in *A. calligera*); this character is best assessed on juvenile phyllodes. It is *A. wickhamii* subsp. *wickhamii* that is most likely to be confused with *A. calligera* but additional characters that are helpful in recognizing this subspecies are its phyllodes which are shallowly to strongly recurved towards their apices, consistently dimidiate and not or scarcely undulate. According to P.G.Kodala & M.D.Tindale, *Flora of Australia* 11B: 243 (2001), intermediates occur between *A. calligera* (syn. *A. wickhamii* subsp. *viscidula*) and *A. wickhamii* in the 'Inverway'–'Limbunya'–'Wave Hill' area of N.T., e.g. *G.Chippendale* NT5891 (DNA, PERTH), *G.Chippendale* NT5939 (BRI, DNA, NSW), *C.Dunlop* 3535 (CANB, DNA, MO), and between L. Argyle and Halls Creek, e.g. *A.C.Beaglehole* 53502 (PERTH).

This species was included within *A. wickhamii* by P.G.Kodala & M.D.Tindale, *Fl. Australia* 11B: 241–245 (2001), however, the taxonomy of L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 6: 493 (2003), is adopted here whereby *A. wickhamii* subsp. *parviphylloidea* and subsp. *viscidula* are combined as *A. calligera* while *A. wickhamii* is regarded as comprising two subspecies, subsp. *wickhamii* and subsp. *cassitera*. Notwithstanding this revised classification both species exhibit complex patterns of variation that require further study, especially with respect to phyllode shape and size. In this context there may be grounds for recognizing subsp. *viscidula* as a separate entity within *A. calligera*, *vide* L.Pedley, *loc. cit.*

FOA Reference

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

Author

B.R.Maslin

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



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