

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia chamaeleon Maslin



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Confined to a small area bounded by Broomehill, Nyabing (c. 60 km NE of Broomehill) and Jerramungup, south-western W.A.

Description

Openly crowned, **glabrous shrub** 2–3 m high. **Branchlets** finely ribbed. Phyllodes subdistant, variable, narrowly **linear** to **filiform** or **oblanceolate** to narrowly **oblanceolate**, **straight** or sometimes shallowly **curved**, subterete to **quadrangular** when **filiform**, 6–21 cm long, (1–) 2–5 (–12) mm wide, **uncinate** to subuncinate or (broad phyllodes) excentrically **rostellate**, dark green; **midrib** ± prominent; **lateral nerves** obscure; **gland** mostly 3–10 mm above **pulvinus**, occasionally a few phyllodes with 2 glands. Inflorescences mostly 4–7-headed racemes; **raceme axes** (5–) 10–42 (–60) mm long, **glabrous** or **appressed-puberulous**; peduncles (2–) 4–6 (–9) mm long, ± **glabrous** or sparsely to densely **appressed-puberulous** with white to pale golden hairs; heads **globular**, 5.5–7 mm diam., 23–37-flowered, ± golden. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals 3/4–5/6-united. Pods **linear**, scarcely constricted between seeds, to 10 cm long, 4–5 mm wide, firmly **chartaceous** to thinly **coriaceous**. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong-elliptic**, 4–5 mm long; **funicle filiform**, 3/4 to entirely encircling seed in a single fold, red-brown; **aril clavate**.

Habitat

Grows in grey-brown, gravelly clay and loam over clay in eucalypt shrubland.

Specimens

W.A.: 5.3 km N of Nyabing Hotel, Kukerin, *R.J. Cumming 2697* (CANB, K, PERTH); 9.7 km NW of Ongerup, *K. Newbey 19D* (AD, BM, BRI, CANB, G, K, MEL, MO, NSW, PERTH); 5 km S of Broomehill along main road, *A. Strid 21858* (AD, BM, C, MEL, NY, PERTH).

Notes

A particularly variable species, especially with respect to its phyllode morphology. The typical variant (Ongerup area) has linear, flat phyllodes 2–5 mm wide; it resembles and is sometimes confused with the more southerly *A. harveyi*, but is distinguished by subdistant phyllodes (internodes 1–2 cm long compared with 0.5–1 cm) and darker yellow, larger flower-heads. Another variant with oblanceolate to narrowly oblanceolate phyllodes to 12 mm wide (Broomehill–Borden area) resembles Variant 2 of the more northerly *A. brumalis*, but is distinguished by its presumably green phyllodes (colour judged from dry specimens), usually white-hairy peduncles and summer flowering; the type of *A. leiophylla* var. *microcephala* appears to be referable to this variant. Still another variant, with filiform phyllodes, (mainly around Nyabing) includes the type of *A. stowardii*. More detailed studies may well result in recognition of some or all of the variants as formal infraspecific or specific taxa; this work should also assist in clarifying the relationship between this species and its equally variable close relatives, *A. brumalis* and *A. chrysellae*.

One of the '*A. microbotrya* group'.

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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Minor edits by J. Rogers

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



Australian Government
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Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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