

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia cockertoniana Maslin



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Discontinuous distribution, occurring in the vicinity of L. Barlee and Mt Magnet, on Mt Jackson, and on the Die Hardy Ra. and Windarling Ra., W.A.

Description

Obconic shrub or trees 3–6 (–7) m high, main stems and upper branches slightly crooked, crowns greyish green with a silvery sheen. **Branchlets** resin-ribbed at extremities, **sericeous** between ribs. Phyllodes mostly **erect**, flat, the apices **acute** and **curved** to **uncinate**, **straight** to shallowly **curved** or sometimes shallowly **sigmoid**, narrowly **linear** to **linear elliptic** or **linear oblanceolate**, narrowed at base, 5–15 (–17) cm long, (1–) 2.5–5 (–6) mm wide, **curved** to **uncinate**, not **rigid**, minutely **sericeous** mostly between the nerves, mid-green to dark grey-green, often drying darkish green tinged yellowish brown, **resinous** with a slight unpleasant musky odour, with numerous, relatively broad (0.1–0.2 mm wide), parallel, **longitudinal** nerves. Inflorescences **simple**, 1 or 2 per **axil**; peduncles 4–6 (–12) mm long, **±glabrous**; heads commonly **obloid**, light golden. Flowers **5-merous**, sepals free or very shortly united at base. Pods **pendulous**, **linear**, **straight** to shallowly **curved**, (4–) 6–12 cm long, 3–5 mm wide, thinly **crustaceous**, **±flat**, mostly not constricted between seed, **sericeous** between the few, **±prominent**, sparingly **anastomosing longitudinal** nerves. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong** to **narrowly oblong**, 4–4.5 mm long, mid-brown; **aril** terminal.

Phenology

Flowers Oct.–Dec. and possibly Jan.

Habitat

Restricted to Banded Iron Formation (BIF) areas; grows in iron-rich soils in dense *Acacia* shrubland.

Specimens

W.A.: Mt Magnet, Harmony Gold Minesite, *S.Kern & D.True 12036* (NSW, PERTH); eastern extremity of Windarling Ra., *B.R.Maslin 8617* (AD, PERTH); Coolwater paddock, *L.Barlee, H.Pringle 3984* (NSW, PERTH).

Notes

A related entity of uncertain taxonomic status from the Jack Hills (c. 200 km NE of Mt Magnet), *A. sp.* Jack Hills (R.Meissner & Y.Caruso 4), appears related to *A. cockertoniana*, *vide* B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 17: 252 (2007) for discussion.

Appears most closely related to the more easterly distributed *A. balsamea*, which differs most obviously in its normally terete phyllodes, **±moniliform** pods and generally smaller growth form. The relationship between a rare flat phyllode variant of *A. balsamea* and *A. cockertoniana* requires further study, see B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 17: 251 (2007) for discussion. Also similar to *A. thoma* which is a smaller plant with flowers arranged in spikes 1–2.5 cm long, pods submoniliform and phyllode nerves more numerous, finer and not covered by resin.

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:



Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy



Department of
Biodiversity, Conservation
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Australian
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Resources
Study



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