

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia colei var. *ileocarpa* M.W.McDonald & Maslin



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.
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B.R. Maslin



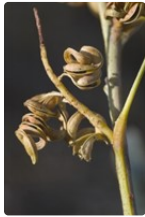
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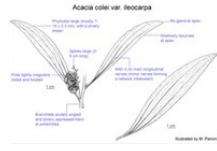
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See illustration.



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

Common Name

Curly-pod Kalkardi

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Scattered distribution in the southern Kimberley region of W.A. and adjacent parts of western N.T.; also has a restricted distribution in the Pilbara region of W.A.

Description

Terminal **branchlets** often orange-coloured. Phyllodes 10–25 (–40) mm wide. Pods tightly and irregularly **coiled** or twisted. Seeds 3–3.5 (–4) mm long.

Phenology

Flowers June–July.

Habitat

Occasionally sympatric with var. *colei* in the Kimberley, e.g. Luluigui Stn (SW of Fitzroy Crossing), and possibly also sometimes in the Pilbara. In the Kimberley it is associated with floodplains and drainage lines and grows on clay loams (pH 5.5–6.5), in open or low open woodlands dominated by various *Eucalyptus* spp. In the Pilbara it occurs on slightly alkaline sandy loam (pH 7.5–8.5), mostly in open *Acacia* shrubland.

Specimens

W.A.: between Rober [Robe R.] and Millstream, *H.Demarz 7663* (BRI, PERTH); Gibb R. rd, 68.2 km SE of Windjana Gorge turn off, *C.E.Harwood & M.McDonald CEH 474* (PERTH); 17 km E of Halls Ck on Duncan Hwy, *L.Thomson LXT 1291–1295* (all PERTH). N.T.: 7 km SE of Negri River on Duncan Highway, SSE of Kununurra, *B.R.Maslin 7120A* (PERTH).

Notes

Acacia colei is a hexaploid and appears to have evolved as an allopolyploid from *A. neurocarpa* (diploid) and *A. cowleana* (tetraploid), *vide* G.F.Moran *et al.*, in A.House & C.Harwood (eds), *Australian Dry-Zone Acacias for Human Food* (1992), and M.W.McDonald & B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 11: 22 (1997). *Acacia colei* is closely related to *A. holosericea* as well as to *A. neurocarpa* but is most reliably distinguished by its phyllodes which lack a gland at the base of their apical mucro, are shallowly recurved towards their apices (straight in *A. holosericea* and *A. neurocarpa*) and have a different nervation pattern as discussed by B.R.Maslin & L.A.J.Thomson, *Australian Systematic Botany* 5(6): 729–743 (1992). The curved (not coiled) pods of var. *colei* further distinguishes this variety not only from its two close species relatives, but also from var. *ileocarpa*. *Acacia colei* var. *colei* is frequently sympatric and occasionally hybridises with *A. cowleana* (e.g. near Elliot, N.T., *L.Thomson LXT1226*, PERTH) and infrequently sympatric with *A. neurocarpa* (e.g. Dampier Penin. and near Halls Creek, W.A., Fish R. Gorge, N.T.).

In West Africa, *A. colei* is used on an increasing scale for windbreaks, land rehabilitation and fuelwood production. Also, the seeds are highly nutritious and have vast potential as a new food crop for dry, sub-Saharan Africa; var. *ileocarpa* is preferred to var. *colei* for this purpose, *vide* A.Rinaudo *et al.*, *Conservation Science Western Australia* 4: 161–169 (2002) and A.Rinaudo & P.S.Cunningham, *Muelleria* 26: 79–85 (2006).

Variation for phyllode width and seed size in var. *ileocarpa* relative to that found in var. *colei* is discussed in M.W.McDonald & B.R.Maslin, *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

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



Australian Government
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Department of
Biodiversity, Conservation
and Attractions
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Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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