

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia conjunctifolia F.Muell.



Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in tropical Australia, in the Victoria R. area and the Gulf of Carpentaria region, N.T., and in extreme north-western Queensland; provisionally also in the NW Kimberley region of W.A..

Description

Shrub to 2 m high, **glabrous, resinous**. **Branchlets** angular to almost flattened towards apices, brown to dark brown; ridges prominent, resin-crenulated. **Phyllodes** single or in clusters of 2–4, **linear** to narrowly **elliptic** or narrowly **ob lanceolate**, flat, **puncticulate**, **straight** to slightly **curved**, 1.2–2.2 cm long, 1–2 (–3) mm wide, with inconspicuous margins; midnerve prominent with 1 or 2 inconspicuous **longitudinal** nerves often not reaching apex; glands 0–3, marginal. Spikes 0.7–3 cm long, pale yellow. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals ±free, 0.3–0.6 mm long, **glabrous**; corolla 0.8–1.5 mm long, dissected to 1/3–1/2, **glabrous**; ovary slightly **scurfy**. Pods **erect**, ±**linear**, broadest above middle and tapered towards base, ±**straight-sided**, **straight** to slightly **curved**, flat, 3–7 cm long, 3.5–7 mm wide, thick, obliquely-longitudinally **striate**, opening elastically from apex; margins thickened, often narrowly winged. Seeds **oblique**, **oblong**- or **narrowly oblong-elliptic**, 3–6 mm long, dark brown; **areole** **oblong-elliptic**, open, with a pale halo around **pleurogram**; funicle-**aril** narrowly conical.

Phenology

Flowers May–Sept.

Habitat

Grows in stony, sandy soils often on laterite or quartzite, in mixed eucalypt woodland or scrubby open forest.

Specimens

W.A.: N side of Wren Gorge, 4.7 km NE of Calder River crossing track to Walcott Inlet, *R.L. & M.D. Barrett* RLB 4002 (PERTH). N.T.: 50 miles [80 km] SW [of] Willeroo HS, 9 May 1960, *G.Chippendale* (DNA, NSW, PERTH); 47.2 km W of Top Springs turnoff, on Victoria Hwy, *M.D.Tindale* 10113, *P.Munns & R.Turvey* (BRI, DNA, K, MEL, NSW, PERTH). Qld: 16 km W [of] Westmoreland HS, *J.R.Maconochie* 2037 (BRI, CANB, DNA, NSW, PERTH); 9 miles [14.4 km] W of Westmoreland Stn, *R.A.Perry* 1341 (BRI, CANB, MEL, NSW, PERTH).

Notes

The clustered arrangement of the phyllodes is unusual in sect. Juliflorae. Related to *A. phacelia* and probably *A. amentifera*. The W.A. (flowering and sterile) material provisionally referred to *A. conjunctifolia* differs from specimens elsewhere in having sometimes slightly larger phyllodes (15–30 x 3–5 mm) which may possess a less pronounced mid-nerve. Further study is needed to check the status of these plants because they may possibly represent a hybrid between *A. phacelia* and *A. tenuispica*; see *B.R.Maslin, M.D.Barrett & R.L.Barrett, Nuytsia* 23: 561–562 (2013), for further notes.

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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