

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia coolgardiensis Maiden



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

Common Name

Sugar Brother

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Widely distributed from Nerren Nerren Stn (c. 80 km NE of Kalbarri) and Northampton, SE to near Holt Rock (c. 100 km NE of Lake Grace) and Menangina Stn (c. 80 km E of Menzies), W.A. Collections previously noted by R.S.Cowan, *Fl. Australia* 11B: 329 (2001) from Carey Downs, Byro and Curbur stns, W.A. are now provisionally referred to *A. incognita*.

Description

Multi-stemmed shrub or tree 2–5 (–7) m high, stems with few to many, shallow to deeply **longitudinal** flutings. Bark smooth except finely **fissured** at extreme base of stems on oldest plants. New shoots resin-encrusted, with sparse, reddish, glandular hairlets on young phyllodes. **Branchlets** resin-ribbed, **appressed-puberulous** between ribs. Phyllodes **filiform, terete**, rarely subterete, **innocuous** to coarsely **pungent, sub-straight** to shallowly **incurved**, (4–) 6–11 (–15) cm long, 0.6–0.8 (–1) mm diam., **not rigid**, grey-green or dull green; **longitudinal** nerves fine, numerous and close together, sometimes **resinous**. Inflorescences **simple**, mostly 2 per **axil**; peduncles 0.5–2 (–3) mm long (obscured by stamens at **anthesis** so heads appear **sessile**), stout, silvery-white **appressed puberulous** and with normally sparse, red-brown glandular hairlets; heads **obloid** to short-**cylindrical**, rarely **globular**, 5–9 (–12) mm long, (4–) 5–6 mm diam., golden. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals free to 1/2-united. Pods **straight** to slightly **curved, terete**, (2–) 4–8 (–10) cm long, 1–2 mm wide, thinly **coriaceous-crustaceous**, ±obscurely longitudinally nerved. Seeds **longitudinal, oblong**, 2.2–4 mm long, shiny, normally tan; arils creamy white.

Habitat

Grows in a wide variety of soils including granitic or lateritic gravel, sand, sandy loam or loam, often on sandplains, but also on low hills and granite outcrops in shrubland and spinifex.

Specimens

W.A.: c. 25 km N of Murchison R. on North West Coastal Hwy, *A.M.Ashby 4630* (AD *n.v.*, PERTH); Coolgardie, *C.A.Gardner 1293* (PERTH); 0.4 km W of Boorabbin Siding, *B.R.Maslin 1858* (AD, DNA, PERTH); near Modesty Downs Station, c. 21.5 km N of Holt Rock, *B.R.Maslin 3938* (PERTH); 97.5 km NNE of Kalgoorlie on road to Edjudina Stn, *B.R.Maslin 4849* (PERTH).

Notes

Until recently a wide-ranging species comprising three subspecies but now considered more appropriate that the subspecies be treated as distinct species, *A. coolgardiensis*, *A. effusifolia* (syn. *A. coolgardiensis* subsp. *effusa*) and *A. latior* (syn. *A. coolgardiensis* subsp. *latior*). See B.R.Maslin & C.Buscumb, *Nuytsia* 18: 107–125 (2008) for discussion.

Acacia coolgardiensis along with *A. effusifolia*, *A. incognita*, *A. latior* and *A. sulcatacaulis* comprise the '*A. coolgardiensis* group', *vide* B.R.Maslin & C.Buscumb, *loc. cit.* Sympatric with group members *A. effusifolia* and *A. latior* in the Mullewa area.

Most closely related to *A. effusifolia* which differs in its flat, broader phyllodes and often longer peduncles and spikes. Furthermore, *A. effusifolia* has a generally more inland distribution; however, intermediates between the species occur where their distributions overlap. Also related to *A. incognita*. Superficially similar to *A. resinosa* but is distinguished by its ±sessile heads, terete pods and non-mottled seeds.

FOA Reference

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

Author

Revised by B.R.Maslin & J.Reid

R.S.Cowan

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



Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy



Department of
Biodiversity, Conservation
and Attractions
Western Australian Herbarium



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