

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

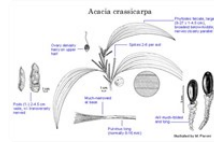
Acacia crassicarpa A.Cunn. ex Benth.



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (a.31404).
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Acacia crassicarpa occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Thick-podded Salwood, Northern Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in tropical Qld, from islands of the Torres Strait through Cape York Penin. to Townsville, with southern outliers at the Burdekin R., Whitsunday Is and near Mackay. Planted, but seemingly not naturalized, on Melville Is., N.T.

Description

Tree 6–25 (–30) m high, canopy grey green. Bark deeply **rimose**. **Branchlets** slightly angular towards apices, **glabrous**. Phyllodes **lanceolate**, attenuated at both ends, **falcate** or subfalcate, 8–27 cm long, (7–) 10–45 mm wide, **coriaceous** or thinly **coriaceous**, pale green to grey green, **glabrous**; **longitudinal** nerves numerous (4–6 per mm), parallel and not **anastomosing**, 3 main nerves raised (when dry), broader and more prominent than the rest, 3 or 4 less prominent secondary nerves also present, the minor nerves not or scarcely raised, lowermost main nerves commonly **confluent** with lower margin for a short distance above **pulvinus**; **pulvinus** (5–) 8–16 mm long. Inflorescences **simple**, 2–6 per **axil**; peduncles 3–10 mm long, **glabrous**; spikes (2–) 3–7 cm long, pale yellow to light golden. Flowers 5-**merous**; **calyx** **gamosepalous**, shallowly dissected, **glabrous**; **ovary** densely hairy on upper half. Pods **oblong** to **narrowly oblong**, flat, sometimes spirally once twisted, **±straight**, (3–) 4–12 cm long, (1–) 2–4.5 cm wide including **wing**, **woody**, **resinous**, **glabrous**, dehiscing along **ventral** suture, with **±transverse**, numerous, **crowded**, rather fine nerves. Seeds transverse, **oblong** to **ovate**, 5–6 mm long, black; **aril** 5–20 mm long.

Phenology

Flowers April–June.

Habitat

Grows in *Acacia* or *Eucalyptus* woodlands and open forest in sandy or rocky soil or in coastal scrub on sand dunes. Also occurs from SE Irian Jaya, Indonesia, E to Papua New Guinea, *vide* M.W.McDonald & B.R.Maslin, *Austral. Syst. Bot.* 13: 41 (2000).

Specimens

Qld: Somerset, *D.H.Benson 554* (NSW); 64 km by road SSE of Ingham, *R.G.Coveny 6936* & *P.Hind* (A, AD, BRI, CANB, K, L, PERTH, US); Slade Point Nat. Res., *M.W.McDonald* & *B.R.Maslin BRM 7623* (BRI, CANB, DNA, K, NSW, PERTH); Jardine R., *C.H.Gittins 1842* (NSW); 20 miles [32 km] N of Townsville, 30 May 1967, *J.T.Waterhouse* (K, MEL, NSW).

Notes

A variable species with respect to habit and the size of phyllodes and pods, see M.W.McDonald & B.R.Maslin, *op cit.* 44, for discussion.

A member of the '*A. aulacocarpa* group', most closely related to *A. lamprocarpa*, *A. midgleyi* and *A. peregrinalis* (from New Guinea). It is distinguished from these and other species of the group by a combination of the following characters: large trees with trunks not fluted and bark deeply rimose, phyllodes large, lanceolate, falcate and much narrowed at base, pulvinus long, spikes light golden to pale yellow and often numerous within phyllode axils, pods broad and finely transversely nerved, and aril long. *Acacia crassicarpa* putatively hybridizes with *A. aulacocarpa* at Bluewater Ck near Townsville, Qld (*M.W.McDonald* & *B.R.Maslin BRM 7630*, BRI, NSW, PERTH) and with *A. midgleyi* at the northern tip of Cape York Pen. (*R.J.Cumming 8087*, CANB); see M.W.McDonald & B.R.Maslin, *op cit.* 44–45, for further discussion.

Details of ecology, utilisation, etc. of *A. crassicarpa* are given in J.W.Turnbull (ed.), *Multipurpose Austral. Trees & Shrubs* 128 (1986).

The treatment of *A. crassicarpa* by NSW, *Fl. Australia* 11B: 168 (2001) is modified here in accordance with the revision of the species by M.W.McDonald & B.R.Maslin, *op cit.* 39–45.

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:



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