

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia cretata Pedley



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See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in Qld along the Great Dividing Ra. between Mara and Moranbah, common on Blackdown Tableland.

Description

Shrub or tree to 8 m high, single-stemmed, round-topped. Bark smooth, later rough and fibrous, grey-brown. Branchlets markedly angular, flattened, stout, brownish crimson, normally pruinose, glabrous. Phyllodes obliquely narrowly elliptic to elliptic, narrowed abruptly into broad pulvinus, lower edge of phyllode sometimes continuous with branchlet, normally shallowly to obviously falcate but sometimes straight-dimidiolate, 7–14 cm long, (12–) 17–40 mm wide, with hooked apex, coriaceous, silvery grey-blue to glaucous, glabrous, with 2 or 3 prominent main nerves free to base or lower two contiguous but remaining free from lower margin; minor nerves sub-distant (2–4 per mm, longitudinally anastomosing; gland 1, basal, to 1 mm above pulvinus. Spikes 4–12 cm long, bright yellow, flowers sub-dense to widely spaced; peduncles 7–25 mm long. Flowers 5-merous; calyx 0.4–0.6 mm long, dissected to 1/4, glabrous; corolla 1.2–1.5 mm long, dissected to 1/2, glabrous; ovary glabrous or pubescent. Pods linear, raised over and ±constricted between seeds, 6–10 cm long, 3–5 mm wide, thinly crustaceous, glabrous, ±resinous. Seeds longitudinal, oblong-elliptic, 4–6 mm long, 1.8–2 mm wide, black; aril yellow.

Phenology

Flowers July–Sept.

Habitat

Grows in eucalypt open forest, in sandy, gravelly or loamy soils, usually over sandstone.

Specimens

Qld: 18 miles [28.8 km] NE of Capella T/S [Township], *L.Adams 1293* (CANB, NSW); 16.8 km E of Comet railway stn, *N.Hall 78/60 & 78/61* (NSW); 9 miles [14.4 km] E of Comet Township, *M.Lazarides & R.Story 67* (CANB, NSW); Blackdown Tableland, *J.G.Simmons & M.H.Simmons 2694* (NSW).

Notes

Acacia cretata has previously been included with a complex of taxa under the name '*A. cunninghamii*' (see *A. concurrens* for discussion), but can be distinguished from similar species by its normally pruinose branches, the glaucous phyllodes contracted abruptly into a short pulvinus and the glabrous flowers, *vide* L.Pedley, *Contrib. Queensland Herb.* 4: 1 (1969) and *Austrobaileya* 1: 164 (1978). As noted by L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 5: 318 (1999) there is variation in this species with plants from lower altitudes on the northern edge of the Blackdown Tableland having more slender branchlets, somewhat smaller phyllodes tapering to longer pulvinuses and shorter inflorescences than those from higher altitudes on the Tableland. Intergrades with *A. fodinalis* in the Emerald–Blackwater–Duarlinga area, *vide* L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 5: 318 (1999).

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:



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