

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia cyclocarpa* Maslin, M.D.Barrett & R.L.Barrett



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

#### Common Name

Ring-pod Minnie Ritchi

#### Family

Fabaceae

#### Distribution

Occurs in the NW Kimberley region of northern W.A. where it grows along the Prince Regent R. Populations are usually large but composed of plants scattered over broken sandstone over several kilometres.

#### Description

Sprawling, **decumbent** to semi-**erect**, **viscid shrub** to 0.6 (–1) m tall. Bark 'Minni Ritchi' at base of mature stems. **Branchlets** normally **glabrous**. **Stipules persistent**, **triangular**, c. 1 mm long. Phyllodes narrowly **linear** or sometimes **linear-elliptic**, narrowed at base, (4–) 5–8.5 cm long, (1–) 1.5–2.5 mm wide, **acuminate** by a fine, normally **curved**, **innocuous** point, often spreading at irregular angles, thin-textured and not **rigid**, flat, **glabrous** or sparsely,  $\pm$ silky **appressed-hairy**; multinerved with central **nerve** the most pronounced, the upper margin broader than lower margin; **gland** basal. Inflorescences **simple**; peduncles 12–25 mm long, noticeably longer than spikes, **glabrous** or sparsely **appressed**,  $\pm$ silky-hairy, a single brown **bract** near or above middle; spikes **obloid** to short-**cylindrical**, mostly 9–12 x 6–7 mm (when dry). Bracteoles c. 1.5 mm long, **acuminate**. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals slightly exceeding  $\frac{1}{2}$  length of petals, free, **linear**, **glabrous**; petals **glabrous**, obscurely **striate**. Pods strongly **curved** into an open circle or coil, 5–7 mm wide, **glabrous**, very **viscid** (especially when young), marginal **nerve** thick. Seeds **longitudinal**, **obloid**, 4.5–5 mm long, 3–3.5 mm wide, dark brown to blackish except dull cream at centre; **areole** small (0.8–1 x 0.5–0.6 mm), not open at the **hilar** end.

#### Phenology

Flowers predominantly in the wet season from Jan.–Apr.; pods with mature seeds collected in Apr. and Aug.

#### Habitat

Grows in association with *Acacia orthocarpa*, *A. prolata*, *Auranticarparesinosa*, *Borya subulata*, *Eucalyptus miniata*, *E. phoenicea*, *E. rupestris*, *Livistona lorophylla*, *Owenia vernicosa* and *Triodia claytonii*.

#### Specimens

W.A.: [localities withheld for conservation reasons] *R.L. & M.D.Barrett 1721* (MEL, PERTH); *R.L. & M.D.Barrett 2632* (DNA, PERTH); *K.F.Kenneally 2078* (NSW, PERTH); *T.Willing s.n.* (BRI, DNA, MEL, PERTH 07386567).

#### Notes

A variant of uncertain taxonomic status occurs in the SW Edkins Ra. (e.g. *R.L.Barrett, M.D.Barrett & B.M.Anderson RLB 7984*, PERTH). See B.R.Maslin, M.D.Barrett & R.L.Barrett, *Nuytsia* 23: 554–555 (2013) for discussion.

Most closely related to *A. trachycarpa* which is common in the Pilbara region, W.A., c. 1,000 km SW of where *A. cyclocarpa* occurs. *Acacia trachycarpa* is distinguished by its normally taller stature, longer and narrower spikes, united, golden-hairy sepals, 1-nerved petals, shorter bracteoles, broader pods that are hairy (at least when young) and oblique, larger seeds; it also has generally shorter peduncles. Also related to the Kimberley endemic, 'Minni Ritchi' species *A. minniritchi* which is most readily distinguished by its taller stature, longer spikes and pilose pods.

#### Conservation

*Acacia cyclocarpa* is listed as Priority Three under Department of Parks and Wildlife Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora.

#### FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

#### Author

B.R.Maslin

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



Australian  
Biological  
Resources  
Study



URL: <https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/wattle>  
Copyright 2018. All rights reserved.