

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia cyclops A.Cunn. ex G.Don



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B.R. Maslin



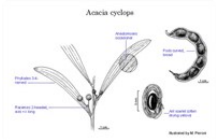
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See illustration.



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

Common Name

Western Coastal Wattle, Rooikrans (South Africa)

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Widespread and seemingly discontinuous in coastal and near-coastal areas mainly between Denmark and Israelite Bay in south-western W.A., ranging N to Leeman in W.A. and E to near Yorketown and Yorke Penin. in S.A. A few collections E of Yorke Penin. and on Kangaroo Is., S.A., are doubtfully native. This species is incipiently adventive in SE Vic.

Description

Shrub to small tree 1–6 m high. Branchlets \pm compressed apically, glabrous. Phyllodes ascending, narrowly oblong to elliptic or obovate, \pm inequilateral, slightly recurved, 4–9.5 (–11) cm long, (4–) 6–15 (–22) mm wide, obtuse or acute, apiculate, coriaceous, glabrous, with 3 or 4 distant main nerves occasionally anastomosing with secondary nerves. Inflorescences 2-headed racemes; raceme axes 3–20 mm long, somewhat compressed, glabrous or appressed-puberulous; peduncles 4–12 (–19) mm long, glabrous; heads globular, 5–7 mm diam., often 60–75-flowered, golden. Flowers 5-merous; sepals 1/2–3/4-united. Pods linear, slightly raised over seeds, arcuate before dehiscence, to 15 cm long, 7–15 mm wide, thick-coriaceous, glabrous, persistent after seed-fall. Seeds longitudinal, elliptic, 5–7 mm long, glossy, dark brown to black; funicle enlarged, encircling seed in two folds, orange to scarlet.

Habitat

Grows mainly in coastal heath or scrubland in loam or sand (often over limestone).

Specimens

W.A.: 19.5 km SE of Mundrabilla HS, *B.Downing 848* (MEL, PERTH); 8 km S of Ravensthorpe on road to Hopetoun, *B.R.Maslin 808* (B, K, L, PERTH); Bremer Bay, *P.G.Wilson 4304* (MEL, NSW, PERTH). S.A.: c. 1 km N of Moonita on road to Kadina, *B.R.Maslin 4542* (PERTH). Vic.: 2 km ENE of Surrey R., *B.C.Beecham 8* (MEL).

Notes

Acacia cyclops is as drought-tolerant as *A. saligna*, and is more tolerant to sea spray. It is tolerant of highly saline soils, *vide* N.Marcar *et al.*, *Trees for Saltland* 30 (1995). *A. cyclops* is grown mainly to stabilise coastal sand dunes notably in north Africa; although its fodder value is inferior to that of *A. saligna* it produces a dense, high quality fuelwood, *vide* M.H.El-Lakany, in J.W.Turnbull (ed.), *Australian Acacias in Developing Countries* 116–117 (1987). Like *A. saligna*, this species is a major environmental weed in South Africa, *vide* C.H.Stirton, *Plant Invaders* 40–43 (1978). Further information on the biological and ecological features, and the utilisation potential, of this species is given in B.R.Maslin and M.W.McDonald, *AcaciaSearch: Evaluation of Acacia as a woody crop option for southern Australia*, RIRDC Publication No. 03/017, 54–58 (2004).

A proposal by B.R.Maslin & P.G.Wilson, *Taxon* 56: 288 (2007) to conserve the name *A. cyclops* over *A. eglanulosa* was recommended for approval, see R.K. Brummitt, *Taxon* 58: 288 (2009) and is now listed in the Code.

Perhaps related to *A. redolens* but strikingly different from otherwise similar species by its colourful aril surrounding the seed. Flowers and mature fruit are often found together on the one plant, further distinguishing the species. Also similar to *A. veronica*.

FOA Reference

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

Author

Minor edits by B.R.Maslin & J.Rogers

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



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Biodiversity, Conservation
and Attractions
Western Australian Herbarium



Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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