

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia decurrens Willd.



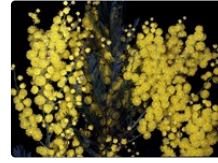
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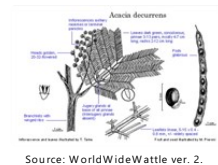
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Acacia decurrens occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Black Wattle, Green Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Endemic to N.S.W. chiefly on the coast and tablelands from the Hunter Valley S to the A.C.T.; naturalised in south-western W.A., south-eastern S.A., south-eastern Qld, parts of N.S.W. and A.C.T., Vic. and possibly Tas. The 'natural' or native distribution is confused by naturalisation caused by widespread plantings in the past in N.S.W., including the A.C.T. where it is adventive according to N.T.Burbidge & M.Gray, *Fl. Austral. Cap. Terr.* 204 (1970).

Description

Tall **shrub** to **tree** to 10 (–15) m high. Bark smooth or **fissured**, brown, greyish black or black, with conspicuous internodal flange marks. **Branchlets** with winged ridges 0.5–2 mm high, **glabrous** or sparsely **appressed-pubescent**. Young foliage-tips light green or greenish yellow to yellow when **pubescent**. Leaves dark green; **petiole** above **pulvinus** (0.7–) 1.5–2.8 cm long, angular, with a prominent **orbicular gland** mostly at base of or to c. 7 mm below basal **pinnae**; **rachis** 2–12 cm long, angular, furrowed, with **orbicular jugary** glands at all pairs of **pinnae**; **interjugary** glands absent; **pinnae** 3–13 pairs, (2.5–) 4–7 (–9) cm long; pinnules 15–45 pairs, widely spaced, **linear**, 5–15 mm long, 0.4–0.8 mm wide, **glabrous** or rarely sparsely **appressed-ciliate**, **obtus**e or subacute. Inflorescences in **axillary** elongated racemes or terminal

false-panicles; peduncles 3–7 mm long. Heads **globular**, 20–32-flowered, golden. Pods **straight**-sided to irregularly and mostly slightly constricted between seeds, 2–10.5 cm long, 4–8.5 mm wide, subcoriaceous, smooth, brown or dark brown, **glabrous**.

Phenology

Flowers mostly July–Sept.; fruits Nov.–Jan.

Habitat

Grows in open forest or woodland, on hillsides or gullies, usually on shale.

Specimens

W.A.: Burekup, Bunbury to Brunswick, *G.J.Keighery 9104* (NSW, PERTH). S.A.: Basket Ra., *H.van Dam 208* (AD, NSW). Qld: a few miles S of Toowoomba, *L.S.Smith 10241* (BRI, NSW). N.S.W.: Menai, *P.Hind 5713 & G.D'Aubert* (MEL, MO, NSW); 9.5 km SW of junction with Tarago–Goulburn road, *L.Thomson 117* (AD, BRI, CANB, K, MEL, NSW, PERTH, US); near Faulconbridge Railway Stn, Blue Mtns, 14 Jan. 1961, *M.D.Tindale s.n.* (NSW); Old Windsor road–Castle Hill, 30 Aug. 1958, *M.D.Tindale s.n.* (NSW). A.C.T.: 4.8 km from Queanbeyan on Sutton Rd, *H.S.McKee 7348* (NSW). Vic.: Trawalla State Forest, on Western Hwy 0.5 km E of turn-off to Snake Valley, *I.C.Clarke 2441* (MEL, NSW).

Notes

According to J.H.Ross, *Fl. Southern Africa* 16: 108 (1975), '*A. decurrens* is usually attributed to "(Wendl.) Willd." with *Mimosa decurrens* J.C.Wendl., *Bot. Beob.* 57 (1798), being taken as a basionym. However, Willdenow cites only *Mimosa decurrens* Donn, *Hort. Cant.* 1: 114 (1796) which is a *nomen nudum*. As he provided no reference to Wendl., either direct or indirect, Willdenow's binomial must be treated as a new name.'

Acacia decurrens was introduced to South Africa, where it has played an important role in the tanning bark industry. The bark has a high tannin yield but not as high as *A. mearnsii* (q.v.). Hybrids between *A. baileyana* and *A. decurrens* are common. 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, 68–75 (2004).

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.Reid

M.D.Tindale, P.G.Kodala

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



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and Attractions
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Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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