

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia deficiens Maslin



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See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Scattered distribution from Burakin (c. 55 km SE of Dalwallinu) S to near Lake Grace and E to near Mt Andrew (c. 90 km SW of Balladonia) and Coolgardie, southwestern W.A.

Description

Prostrate domed or spreading shrub to 1 m high. Branches dividing into numerous, rigid, ascending to erect, \pm spinescent, green or subglaucous, glabrous, \pm ribless branchlets, rarely narrowly winged or flexuose. Phyllodes few at base of terminal branchlets, absent from the upper inflorescence-bearing nodes, lanceolate to narrowly oblong-elliptic, infrequently linear, mostly 1–2 cm long and 2–4 mm wide, green to subglaucous, glabrous; midrib obscure; lateral nerves absent. Inflorescences normally 1-headed rudimentary racemes with axes 0.5–1 mm long; peduncles (3–) 4–9 mm long, glabrous, recurved in fruit; heads globular, 4–5 mm diam., normally 20–30-flowered, golden; young buds light orange or red. Flowers 5-merous; sepals free. Pods mostly narrowly oblong, prominently rounded over seeds, to 4 cm long, mostly 4–6 mm wide, thinly chartaceous and very brittle, glabrous. Seeds normally transverse, ovate to elliptic, 3–4 mm long, dull, black, exarillate; funicle filiform.

Habitat

Grows in loam, clay loam, clay, sandy loam and sand, in open shrub mallee and woodland with various *Eucalyptus* species, on flat or gentle undulating plains.

Specimens

W.A.: 7.7 km E of Burakin towards Beacon, *R.Cumming* 2336 (PERTH); 9.5 km W of Bullabulling towards Southern Cross, *R.Cumming* 2484 (PERTH); 0.8 km N of Salmon Gums towards Norseman, *B.R.Maslin* 2443 (CANB, PERTH); 7 km N of Mt Andrew, c. 116 km SE of Norseman, *K.Newbey* 7776 (PERTH).

Notes

A variant from Westonia (e.g. *C.A.Gardner* 1850, NSW, PERTH) is unusual in that the branchlets are trifariously narrowly winged; other collections from other localities also show this condition but to a lesser extent. Another variant from between Kulin and Lake Grace (*B.R.Maslin* 4069, PERTH) is very unusual in its narrow pods (3 mm wide) with longitudinal seeds.

Sometimes confused with the more northerly distributed *A. exocarpoides* on account of its \pm spinescent branchlets with few small phyllodes, but that species is a larger, coarser shrub with terete phyllodes, long, submoniliform, thinly coriaceous pods and arillate seeds. *Acacia erinacea* is another species with spinescent branchlets, few phyllodes and prostrate habit, but is not close to *A. deficiens*; it is a more intricately branched shrub with shorter, more pungent branchlets, smaller, differently shaped phyllodes, united sepals, usually crustaceous, narrowly to broadly oblong pods and arillate seeds.

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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Minor edits by J.Rogers

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>
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