

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia diastemata Maslin, M.D.Barrett & R.L.Barrett



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

Common Name

Sandstone Pavement Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in the Kimberley region of northern W.A. where it is known from widespread but very localised populations between the Prince Regent R., N to the Roe R., and E to Drysdale R. Natl Park. Its geographic range extends over c. 200 km along a SW/NE axis.

Description

Erect shrub or small **tree** 2–5 m tall. Bark **fibrous**, grey. **Branchlets** finely ribbed, brown aging grey, **glabrous**. Phyllodes narrowly **linear**, 9–16 cm long, 1–2 mm wide, apex terminated by a blunt, **callous** point, thin and pliable, **erect, straight** to shallowly **incurved, glabrous**; **longitudinal** nerves 3, widely spaced, the often yellowish central **nerve** the most pronounced; **gland** basal, very small. Peduncles 1.5–3 (–4) mm long, **glabrous**; spikes 25–35 mm long, **interrupted**, light golden. Flowers **4-merous** or sometimes **5-merous**; **calyx gamosepalous**, shortly dissected into broadly **triangular** lobes, **calyx** tube **glabrous**. Pods **glabrous**, narrowly **linear**, slightly constricted between seeds and obviously **rounded** over them, 4–7 cm long, 2–2.5 mm wide, thinly **coriaceous-crustaceous**, obscurely longitudinally reticulately nerved. Seeds **longitudinal, obloid**, 2–2.5 × 1.2–1.4 mm; **areole** elongated 'u'-shaped; **aril** bright yellow or sometimes cream (at least when dry).

Phenology

Because of the paucity of collections it is not possible to accurately determine the phenology but flower have been collected in late Jan. and mature seed in late Mar. and May. It seemingly flowers in the wet season and fruits in the early dry season.

Habitat

Occurs in small stands on massive sheeting sandstone pavements and grows with a range of species including *Acacia kenneallyi*, *Goodenia* aff. *gloeophylla*, *Hibiscus superbis*, *Macarthuria vertex*, *Triodiaspp.* and *Triumfetta* spp.

Specimens

W.A.: [localities withheld for conservation reasons] *R.L.Barrett & M.D.Barrett MDB 1372* (BRI, MEL, NSW, PERTH); *M.D.Barrett & R.L.Barrett MDB 1843* (AD, BRI, CANB, DNA, G, MEL, NSW, NT, NY, PERTH).

Notes

Flower merosity is variable, which is unusual in *Acacia*. Within a single spike the flowers can be either all 4-merous or a mixture of 4-merous and 5-merous.

Most closely related to *A. scopulorum* (from N.T.) which is readily distinguished by its wider phyllodes with more numerous nerves. The 4-merous flowers with gamosepalous calyces, that are arranged in long, interrupted spikes, suggest that both these species are related to the '*A. longifolia* group' from SE Australia; see A.G.Brown *et al.*, *Systematic Botany* 23: 162-172 (2010), for discussion of this group. In having narrowly linear, 3-nerved, glabrous phyllodes *A. diastemata* is remarkably similar to narrow phyllode forms of *A. longissima* from this group. *Acacia longissima*, which occurs in SE Qld and northern N.S.W., is distinguished by its eglandular phyllodes, narrowly ellipsoid, much larger seeds, densely tomentulose ovaries and commonly longer peduncles.

Conservation

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

FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

Author

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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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