

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia distans Maslin



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Source: Australian Plant Image Index (dig.45655).
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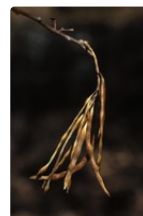
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See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Discontinuous in north-western W.A. occurring mainly between the Murchison and Ashburton rivers, but also on the Fortescue R. and some tributaries further north.

Description

Shapely tree 4–10 (–12) m tall that often forms pure stands. Bark fibrous, fissured, grey. Branchlets sometimes pendulous, slender, glabrous. New shoots citron-sericeous when young; hairs aging to silver. Phyllodes ± falcate, 6–10 (–15) cm long, 4–11 mm wide, acute, innocuous, thinly coriaceous, silvery grey-blue, silvery grey-green or silvery green, appressed-puberulous (hairs sparse with age), finely striate with central nerve slightly more evident than rest. Inflorescences rudimentary 2-headed racemes with axes 0.5–1 mm long; peduncles (4–) 8–12 mm long, appressed-puberulous, sometimes glabrous when in pod; spikes 3–7 (–11) cm long, cm long, 4–5 mm diam., interrupted; flowers in clusters along receptacle, golden; receptacle appressed-puberulous with indumentum sometimes sparse. Flowers 5-merous; sepals 1/5–1/6 length of petals, cupular, c. 1/2-united; petals sparsely hairy. Pods linear to submoniliform, slightly raised over and shallowly constricted between seeds, to 14 cm long, 3–6 (–7) mm wide, thin-crustose, sparsely appressed-puberulous at maturity. Seeds longitudinal, elliptic to broadly elliptic, 6 mm long, glossy, dark brown, aril small.

Phenology

Flowers late Mar.–May or occasionally June.

Habitat

Grows on loamy, alluvial plains in low woodland and shrubland, often in pure stands.

Specimens

W.A.: Dale paddock, Towera Stn, *R.J.Cranfield 1749a* (MEL, PERTH); Murchison R., Beringarra, *N.H.Speck 656* (BRI, MEL, PERTH); Fortescue R. crossing on new Great Northern Hwy, *L.Thomson LXT 1120* (PERTH).

Notes

Acacia distans is probably a moderately fast-growing and long-lived species that is likely to be poorly adapted to acid soils; see J.Doran & J.Turnbull, *Australian trees and shrubs: species for land rehabilitation and farm planting in the tropics* 145 (1997) for more details.

Perhaps most closely related to *A. shirleyi*. Similar in general appearance to some species of the Mulga (*A. aneura*) group but readily distinguished by its interrupted spikes and very narrow pods. In the field *A. distans* may easily be mistaken for *A. citrinoviridis* which can be distinguished by having shorter spikes with the flowers much closer together on a normally densely yellow-hairy receptacle, and its broader, densely hairy pods.

FOA Reference

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

Author

Edited by B.R.Maslin

R.S.Cowan

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



Australian Government
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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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