

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia dunnii (Maiden) Turrill



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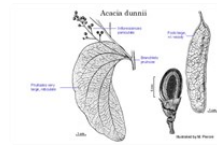
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See illustration.



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

Common Name

Dunn's Wattle, Elephant-ear Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in north-western Australia lowlands from Walcott Inlet (W.A.) to Victoria R. (N.T.), extending farther inland along the Ord R. valley to Mabel Downs Stn. Also recorded from some islands near the Kimberley coast. Widely cultivated with occasional escapees becoming established in N.T., *vide* G.J.Leach, *Nuytsia* 9: 353, 1994.

Description

Pruinose shrub or tree to 6 m high. **Branchlets terete, glabrous**. Phyllodes inequilaterally **elliptic to ovate**, shallowly **falcate**, 12–42 cm long, (4–) 6–17 cm wide, very unequal at base, 2–4-times **crenate** on upper margin, **obtuse, coriaceous, glabrous**, with 4 or 5 prominent **longitudinal nerves confluent** with lower margin at base, closely **reticulate** between main nerves. Inflorescences in terminal or **axillary** panicles 11–50 cm long; peduncles 8–20 mm long, single or fascicled, **glabrous**; heads **globular**, 6–8 mm diam., 50–85-flowered, golden. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals 1/4–1/2-united. Pods **narrowly oblong, straight**, to 17 cm long, 2–4 cm wide, subwoody, coarsely **reticulate**. Seeds transverse, broadly **elliptic to oblong-elliptic**, 9–12 mm long, subnitid, brown with brown-black periphery; **aril** apical.

Habitat

Grows in gravelly soil, often on rocky slopes.

Specimens

W.A.: New York Jump Ups, *J.R.Maconochie* 148 (PERTH); Mabel Downs Stn., Winnama Gorge, *E.A.Chesterfield* 213 (PERTH); West Governors Is., Napier Broome Bay, 19 May 1984, *J.H.Willis* (PERTH). N.T.: Victoria R., 25 May 1922, *E.J.Dunn* (K); 22.5 km W of Timber Ck., *A.S.George* 6531 (PERTH).

Notes

Maiden formally described *A. sericata* var. *dunnii* based on material collected by E.J.Dunn who published notes in a paper in 1916 (*Proc. Roy. Soc. Victoria* 28(2): 228). Our interpretation is that Turrill, by citing Maiden's name in synonymy, based *A. dunnii* on Maiden's varietal name. The material Turrill cited as just having received in 1922, we interpret as additional to that originally used by Maiden. Given this interpretation, the correct author citation is as given above.

Related to *A. platycarpa* and *A. sericata* both of which have considerably smaller phyllodes. As W.B.Turrill, *Bull. Misc. Inform.* 1922: 299 (1922), observed, *A. dunnii* combines phyllode characters of *A. platycarpa* with the wingless pods of *A. sericata*. Also related to *A. tolmerensis*.

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



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