

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia echinula DC.



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See illustration.



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

Common Name

Hedgehog Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in eastern N.S.W. between Howes Valley and Nowra, and further N near Grafton.

Description

Intricate **decumbent** or **erect shrub** to 2 m high. **Branchlets** hirsutellous to **puberulous**. **Stipules** normally \pm setaceous, 1–2 mm long. Phyllodes rather **crowded**, \pm subsessile, often subverticillate, **patent** to **inclined**, **terete** or subterete, often drying **quadrangular** or \pm flat with a pronounced **midrib** on each face, 5–14 mm long, 1–1.5 mm wide, **pungent**, **rigid**, green, **glabrous**; **gland** obscure, 0.5–2 mm above base. Inflorescences **simple**, 1 per **axil**; peduncles 5–15 mm long, stout, **glabrous**; basal bracts 3 and fused; heads **globular**, large, 5–10 mm diam. (dry), densely 25–42-flowered, usually mid-golden; **bracteole** laminae long-**acuminate**, 1.5–2 mm long, dark brown, **exserted** beyond flowers in bud. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals 1/3–2/3-united; petals 1-nerved. Pods to 4 cm long, (3–) 4–5 mm wide, thinly **coriaceous-crustaceous**, blackish, **glabrous**. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong-elliptic**, 4 mm long, dark brown, obscurely **mottled** yellow, **exarillate**; **funicle** **filiform**.

Habitat

Usually grows in sand over sandstone, in dry sclerophyll forest or sometimes in heath.

Specimens

N.S.W.: between Putty and Windsor, 8 Sept. 1948, *E.F. Constable s.n.* (NSW, PERTH); Bunyabba Nature Reserve, c. 25 km N of Grafton, *R. Coveny 4987* (NSW); Blue Mtns Natl Park, 20 km SW of Bilpin on Bells Line of Rd to Lithgow, *B.R. Maslin 5880* (NSW, PERTH).

Notes

A member of the '*A. ulicifolia* group' recognised by its long, stout (0.5–1 mm diam.) peduncles, large flower-heads (5–10 mm diam. when dry), long-acuminate, exserted bracteoles and \pm quadrangular phyllodes (when dry). Especially close to *A. asparagoides*. The flower-heads are usually a bright mid-golden, but sometimes they are a lighter shade of yellow (e.g. *B.R. Maslin 5886*, K, NSW, PERTH), although not a creamy yellow as in *A. ulicifolia*. May form hybrids with *A. ulicifolia* (see discussion under *A. ulicifolia*).

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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and Attractions
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Australian
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Resources
Study



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