

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia equisetifolia Maslin & Cowie



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Known only from Graveside Gorge in the Kakadu Natl Park, 220 km ESE of Darwin, N.T.

Description

Erect shrub to c. 1 m tall. **Branchlets** densely **villous** with the weak hairs c. 1 mm long, white and shallowly **curved**. **Stipules** 1–2 mm long. Phyllodes 10–17 per whorl, (10–) 15–20 mm long, slender (0.3–0.4 mm wide), **ascending** to **erect** (young) aging **patent**, mostly shallowly to moderately **incurved**, **terete**, **sub-terete** or flattish, dull green, villosulous, excentrically **mucronate** with **mucro** 0.1–0.3 mm long, nerves not visible. Peduncles mostly 15–30 mm long, **villous** as on **branchlets**. Heads 30–35-flowered. Flowers 5-**merous**; **calyx** very small (¼ or less the length of **corolla**), the sepals free and **oblong** to **oblong-elliptic**; petals nerveless or obscurely 1-nerved, apically short-**pilose**. Pods (slightly immature) **sessile**, 10–30 mm long, 8–10 mm wide, ±thinly **crustaceous**, flat but obviously raised over seeds, **straight** to slightly **curved**, blackish, **viscid**, **villous**, ±nerveless. Seeds transverse to ±**oblique** in the pods.

Phenology

Because of the paucity of collections phenology incomplete. Flowers in Feb.; near-mature pods present in Mar., Aug. and Oct.

Habitat

Grows on sandstone slopes and ledges at the tops of sheer cliffs.

Specimens

N.T.: Graveside Gorge, Kakadu Natl Park, *K.G.Brennan* 6735 (DNA, NT) and *V.J. Levitzke* 806 (DNA).

Notes

Close to *A. hippuroides* from west Kimberley region of W.A. which differs by having indumentum on peduncles and upper branchlets normally pale golden with generally shorter hairs (c. 0.5 mm long) that are patent and ±straight, normally gamosepalous calyces dissected for ¼–¾ into triangular or oblong lobes, often more strongly curved pods that are wider (8–15 mm), more obviously viscid, reticulately nerved and with a generally sparser indumentum.

Conservation

Considered critically endangered (see Maslin, Bruce & Cowie, Ian. (2014). *Acacia equisetifolia*, a rare, new species of acacia sect. Lycopodiifoliae (Fabaceae: Mimosoideae) from the top end of the Northern territory. *Nuytsia*. 24. 1–5., for discussion).

FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

Author

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



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