

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia erinacea Benth.



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Source: Australian Plant Image Index (dig.851).
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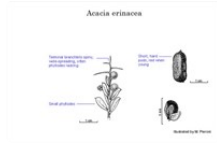
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Acacia erinacea occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Widespread from Kalbarri Natl Park S to Broomehill and E to Eucla, south-western W.A., extending just into the extreme SW of S.A.

Description

Rigid, intricate, spreading shrub, commonly 0.3–1 m high, sometimes forming prostrate mats or reaching 2 m high, glabrous. Branchlets short, patent, divaricate, whitish scurfy, finely ribbed, spinose, often aphyllous. New shoots red to red-brown. Phyllodes mostly ascending to erect, obliquely oblong to oblong-elliptic or oblong-oblongate, 5–12 mm long, 2–4 mm wide, acute to obtuse, excentrically mucronate, grey-green to glaucous, sometimes whitish scurfy; midrib ± obscure; lateral nerves absent or obscure. Inflorescences rudimentary racemes with axes > 0.5 mm long; peduncles 4–12 mm long, often red to red-brown; heads globular, 12–22-flowered, golden; bracteoles c. 0.5 mm long. Flowers 5-merous, sometimes 4-merous; sepals united into a very short cup. Pods oblong to narrowly oblong, slightly biconvex, straight, usually 1–3 cm long and 7–10 mm wide, usually crustaceous, without internal partitions. Seeds oblique, 3.5–4 mm long, oblong-ovate to widely elliptic, one side often flattened, shiny, dark brown; aril subterminal.

Habitat

Grows in clay, sandy clay, sand, laterite, gravel and loam, in open eucalypt woodland, mallee woodland and sandplain scrub, on hills and on flatlands.

Specimens

W.A.: 27.2 km N of Clyde Hill, *M.A.Burgman 1814 & S.McNee* (PERTH); Swan R., *J.Drummond (?): 163* (C, CGE, G, K, LUND, MEL, OXF, P); 8 km S of Cocklebidy, *A.S.George 11825* (PERTH, TLF); 16 km S of Cunderdin towards Quairading, *B.R.Maslin 212* (PERTH). S.A.: c. 16 km E of S.A.–W.A. State border [on Eyre Hwy], *R.J.Chinnock 3350* (PERTH).

Notes

A variant with thinly coriaceous pods 3–5 cm long, 4–7 mm wide and variably constricted between seeds occurs intermittently in south-western W.A., especially in the Kalgoorlie region (e.g. 4.8 km S of Siberia, *B.R.Maslin 1919*, PERTH). In flower this variant seems indistinguishable from typical *A. erinacea*.

Sometimes confused with *A. improcera*, *A. jacksonioides* or *A. spinosissima*. Also similar to *A. deficiens* and superficially similar to *A. kochii*. The prostrate forms may superficially resemble *A. intricata*.

FOA Reference

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

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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