

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia estrophiolata F.Muell.



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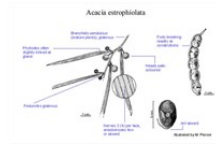
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Acacia estrophiolata occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Ironwood, Southern Ironwood

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Common in southern N.T., extending into W.A. near Giles (with an outlier on Granite peak Stn c. 300 km NE of Meekatharra), to north-western S.A. near L. Eyre; there is also an outlier in NW Qld.

Description

Graceful **glabrous tree** 4–16 m high. **Branchlets pendulous** (mature plants). Phyllodes **linear** to very narrowly **elliptic**, **straight** to slightly **curved**, often slightly kinked at the **gland**, (1.5–) 4–11 cm long, (1–) 2–5 (–7) mm wide, l:w = 16–40, **acute** to short-**acuminate**, thinly **coriaceous**, pale green, **glabrous**, with 3 or 4 main nerves and sometimes sparsely **anastomosing** minor nerves in between; **gland** 3–20 mm above **pulvinus**. Inflorescences **simple** or **rudimentary** 1- or 2-headed racemes with **axes** to 1 mm long, 1 or 2 per **axil**; peduncles 3–12 mm long; basal **bract persistent**; heads **globular**, 4–5 mm diam., densely 30–35-flowered, creamy to pale yellow. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals free. Pods flat, breaking readily at constrictions between seeds, to 10 cm long, 5–7 (–9) mm wide, firmly **chartaceous**, **reticulate**, narrowly winged. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong-elliptic**, c. 5.5 mm long, dull, brown, **exarillate**.

Habitat

Grows commonly on sandy alluvial flats as scattered trees, but also in tall open shrubland and open woodland.

Specimens

W.A.: 5 km SE of Giles Meteorological Stn, *A.S. George 12114* (PERTH); 3 km NW of Granite Peak HS, July 1999, *R. & B. McLennan* (PERTH). N.T.: 1.6 km E of Alice Springs, *R.A. Perry 3229* (K, NSW, PERTH). S.A.: 48 km NW of Kenmore Park Stn near Ernabella, *D.E. Symon 2702* (K, PERTH). Qld: Ardmore Stn, S of Mt Isa, *R. Booth 3568* (BRI).

Notes

Closely related to *A. excelsa* but differing (perhaps arbitrarily) in phyllode proportions. Because of its narrow, 3-nerved phyllodes *A. excelsa* subsp. *angusta* is especially similar to *A. estrophiolata*, but besides being geographically separated, the subspecies appears to lack the slightly kinked phyllodes that often occur on *A. estrophiolata*. Perhaps distantly related to *A. dolichophylla* which has much longer phyllodes with prominently raised nerves; for more details see B.R.Maslin, *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 2: 308 (1980).

There are obvious morphological differences between young and mature plants of this species. The young plants have rigid branchlets and short, straight, patent to erect phyllodes which are normally in nodose clusters; on mature plants the ultimate branchlets are lax and pendulous and the phyllodes are longer and not clustered.

Bark from branches, root bark and gum used traditionally by N.T. aborigines for various skin disorders, upper respiratory tract infections and gastro-intestinal discomfort, *vide* Aboriginal Communities of the Northern Territory (1993), *Traditional Aboriginal Medicines N. Territory Austral.* 12–13 (Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory of Australia, Darwin).

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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Minor edits by B.R.Maslin, J.Reid & J.Rogers

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



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