

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia falciformis* DC.



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

### Common Name

Mountain Hickory, Broad-leaved Hickory, (Pale) Hickory Wattle, Black Wattle, Tanning Wattle, Large-leaf Hickory Wattle

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Common on tablelands and slopes of the Great Divide, mostly at 800 m to 1200 m alt., from near Traralgon, Vic., N through N.S.W. and A.C.T. to Warwick, Qld; extending to the Atherton Tableland, Qld, but discontinuous and uncommon N of Warwick, *vide* L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 267 (1980). The Qld distribution is similar to that of *A. falcata* and *A. fimbriata*.

### Description

Shrub or tree to 12 m high, sometimes taller. Branchlets glabrous. Phyllodes  $\pm$ pendulous, usually falcate, 8–24 cm long, (1.2–) 1.5–3 (–4) cm wide, narrowed at base, grey-green to glaucescent, glabrous, with prominent midrib, finely penninerved; gland 5–30 mm above pulvinus; margin indented at gland which is connected to midrib by a fine oblique nerve. Inflorescences 5–18-headed racemes, sometimes in terminal panicles; raceme axes 2–10 cm long, usually yellow appressed-puberulous at least near apices; peduncles (3–) 4–8 (–10) mm long, usually yellow appressed-puberulous; heads globular, (13–) 20–30-flowered, creamy yellow or sometimes bright yellow. Flowers 5-merous; sepals united. Pods mostly 5–13 cm long and 15–25 mm wide, thinly coriaceous, slightly pruinose, glabrous. Seeds longitudinal, oblong to  $\pm$ elliptic, 5.5–7 mm long, slightly shiny, black; funicle thickly filiform, often folded below seed, dark reddish brown; aril clavate.

### Habitat

Grows in clay loam in sclerophyll forest or woodland.

### Specimens

Qld: Salvalor Rosa Natl Park, *M.E.Ballingall 2169* (BRI, PERTH); near Herberton, *J.Moriarty 258* (PERTH). N.S.W.: 35 km SSE of Braidwood, *M.D.Crisp 4670* (PERTH). A.C.T.: eastern slopes of Brindabella Ra. above Upper Cotter Dam, *R.D.Hoogland 8438* (A n.v., CANB, K n.v., L n.v., MEL, NSW). Vic.: 4.8 km N of Buchan on Gelantipy road, *E.F.Constable 5376A* (MEL, PERTH).

### Notes

*Acacia falciformis* is usually distinguished from related species with large, falcately recurved phyllodes and broad pods, by its yellow appressed-puberulous raceme axes and peduncles (hairs occasionally white or absent; *A. mabellae* has similar indumentum but with  $\pm$ spreading hairs), and phyllodes with their adaxial margin shallowly indented at the gland which is situated 5–30 mm above the pulvinus and connected to the midrib by a fine oblique nerve.

N.T.Burbidge & M.Gray, *Fl. Austral. Cap. Terr.* 202 (1970), report *A. falciformis* in the A.C.T. as forming thickets by root suckers following fire or disturbance.

Past confusion between *A. falciformis* and *A. penninervis* is discussed by J.H.Maiden, *Forest Fl. New South Wales* 3: 69-77 (1907), and summarised by L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 269 (1980). *Acacia obliquinervis* was also formerly confounded with *A. falciformis*. Phyllodes are sometimes  $\pm$ mottled pinkish purple upon drying and may resemble those of *A. rubida*, a species readily distinguished by its commonly persistent juvenile foliage, peduncles normally 2–4 mm long, heads light golden and 10–20-flowered, pods 5–8 mm wide and funicles completely encircling the seeds.

The specimens from northern N.S.W. with oblanceolate,  $\pm$ straight, shorter than normal phyllodes that were noted by B.R.Maslin, *Fl. Australia* 11A: 251 (2001), are now included in *Acacia* sp. *New England* (J.B.Williams 97011).

The variant from Glasshouse Mtns, Qld, referred to by L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 267 (1980), is probably within the normal range of variation for the species. However, many specimens from further N in Qld are unusual in having the gland located 0–5 mm above the pulvinus and seemingly lacking the oblique nerve to the midrib. These can be confused with *A. falcata* which is distinguished by its peduncles 3–4 mm long, heads 15–20-flowered, sepals  $\pm$ free, pods 5–8 mm wide and funicles completely encircling the seeds. Patterns of variation within these Qld populations require further study.

*Acacia falciformis* appears to hybridise with *A. bancroftiorum* in the Leichhardt District, Qld.

## FOA Reference

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

## Author

B.R.Maslin

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

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