

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia fraternalis* Maslin



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

#### Family

Fabaceae

#### Distribution

Occurs near Norseman and Higginsville (now-abandoned township about halfway between Widgiemooltha and Norseman) with outlier at Cundelee Mission (c. 120 km due NE of Higginsville), W.A.

#### Description

Obconic shrub 1–3 (–5) m tall. New shoots resinous. Branchlets glabrous except often sparsely and minutely appressed-hairy at apices. Phyllodes terete to flat, mostly ascending to erect, not rigid, narrowly linear, normally shallowly incurved, 60–100 (–120) mm long, 0.5–1.5 (–2) mm wide, short-acuminate with delicate, curved and innocuous tips, glabrous; longitudinal nerves numerous, often rather indistinct. Inflorescences 1–2 (–3)-headed racemes; raceme axes 1–10 (–20) mm long, often terminated by vegetative bud or growing out when heads are in bud; peduncles 4–9 mm long, sparsely to moderately appressed hairy, occasionally glabrous; heads globular, 3.5–5 mm diam., 20–30-flowered, light golden, often resinous in bud. Flowers 5-merous; sepals free. Pods narrowly oblong to broadly linear, 30–60 mm long, 7–10 mm wide, firmly chartaceous, mostly shallowly curved, often slightly undulate, obviously raised over seeds alternately on either side, ±glabrous, nerveless or obscurely transversely nerved. Seeds transverse to oblique in pods, obloid to ellipsoid or ovoid, 3–3.5 mm long; aril clavate to oblong and 1/4–1/3 (–1/2) as long as seed.

#### Phenology

Flowers: Nov.–June; mature pods often co-occur with the inflorescences.

#### Habitat

Commonly occurs in clay, sandy clay or sandy loam on the slopes of granite and/or basalt hills in very open low woodland and Mallee heath with *Triodia* ground cover or open *Eucalyptus* woodland (that includes *E. lesouefii*) and tall shrubland dominated by *Acacia acuminata*; the Cundelee plant occurred on red sand.

#### Notes

Most closely related to *A. warramaba* which is distinguished by having consistently flat (never terete) phyllodes that are broader and commonly shorter, and more numerous flowers per head. Also has some affinities with *A. papyrocarpa* that has clearly appressed-puberulous new shoots with hairs persisting on mature phyllodes, flat, openly reticulately nerved pods and larger, longitudinal seeds. See B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 24: 158 (2014) for further discussion.

The phyllodes on specimens from the vicinity of Higginsville are consistently flat but elsewhere they are terete to sub-terete.

#### Author

B.R. Maslin

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



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