

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia frigescens* J.H. Willis



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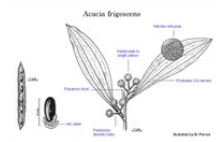
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Acacia frigescens occurrence map.  
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living  
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

### Common Name

Montane Wattle, Forest Wattle, Frosted Wattle

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Confined to montane and subalpine regions NE of Melbourne to Mt Coopracambra in E Gippsland, Vic.

### Description

**Shrub** or **tree** 3–15 m high. Bark rather smooth. **Branchlets glabrous**. Phyllodes narrowly **elliptic** to **oblongate-elliptic**, **straight**, 7–16 cm long, 1.5–5 cm wide, **acute** to subacute, **coriaceous**, normally greyish green (from an innate mealiness), with 3–5 main **longitudinal** nerves and a close **reticulum** between them. Inflorescences comprising 2- to 5-headed **axillary** racemes; **raceme axes** 6–17 mm long, **glabrous**, **resinous**; peduncles 5–10 mm long, densely **puberulous**; heads **globular**, 6–7 mm diam., c. 30-flowered, pale yellow to bright yellow. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals united to near their apices. Pods **linear**, raised over seeds, **±straight**, to 10 cm long, 5–8 mm wide, **crustaceous-coriaceous**, **glabrous**. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong**, 4–5 mm long, shiny, black; **aril** folded beneath the seed, white.

### Habitat

Grows as an understorey in tall eucalypt forest, e.g. *Eucalyptus regnans* (Mountain Ash).

### Specimens

Vic.: c. 1.3 km N of Mt Coopracambra summit, *D.E.Albrecht 3668* (BRI, MEL, PERTH); 5 km W [of] Mt Gregory, *S.J.Forbes 948* (BRI, HO, K, NSW, PERTH); Poley Ra., about 16 km NE of Warburton, 18 Feb. 1954, *J.H.Willis* (MEL, NSW).

### Notes

Superficially very similar in habit and foliage to *A. melanoxylon*, with which it is sometimes sympatric. *Acacia melanoxylon* is most readily distinguished by its rough, fissured bark, commonly persistent bipinnate foliage (discarded after the first seedling leaves in *A. frigescens*), normally glabrous peduncles and cream-coloured heads of 30–56 flowers, coiled and often twisted pods and especially by its seeds which are encircled by a conspicuous pink to red aril.

### 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



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Western Australian Herbarium



Australian  
Biological  
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Study



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