

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia genistifolia Link



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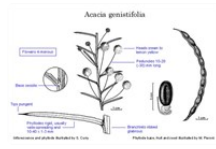
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Acacia genistifolia occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Spreading Wattle, Early Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Common in south-eastern Australia from Dubbo, N.S.W., S through A.C.T. to the Grampians, Vic; rare in S.A. (N of Mintaro); abundant in N and E Tas., including Flinders and Bruny Islands.

Description

Open often straggly **shrub** usually 0.6–3 m high, **glabrous**. Branchlet apices ribbed; ribs normally yellow. **Stipules** sometimes **caducous**, c. 1 mm long. Phyllodes subdistant, **sessile**, usually **patent** to **inclined**, rather coarse, **straight** to shallowly **recurved**, **quadangular** to (especially in Tas.) flat, usually 1–4 cm long and 1–3 mm wide, **pungent** with slender **cuspid**, **rigid**, green, 4-nerved in all, prominently 1-nerved per face when flat, occasionally imperfectly 2- or 3-nerved; **gland** 2–4 mm above base. Inflorescences **simple**, usually 2–4 per **axil**; peduncles 1–2 (-3) cm long, rather slender; basal **bract caducous**; heads **globular**, 12–30-flowered, cream to rich lemon yellow. Flowers 4-**merous**; sepals c. 2/3-united. Pods **linear**, raised over seeds, **arcuate** to \pm **straight**, 4–11 cm long, 4–7 mm wide, thinly **coriaceous**. Seeds **longitudinal**, 3.5–5.5 mm long; **aril** terminal.

Habitat

Grows in a variety of soils, in dry sclerophyll forest and woodland or heathland below 1000 m alt.

Specimens

S.A.: c. 10.5 km from Mintaro, on side track off Gap Rd, *D.E.Symon 15038* (AD, PERTH). A.C.T.: along Weetangera road N of Black Mtn, *R.D.Hoogland 6418* (CANB). N.S.W.: 13.4 km E of Bathurst, *R.Coveny 4149* (K, NSW, PERTH). Vic.: 14.5 km SE of Knowsley on McIvor Hwy to Heathcote, *B.R.Maslin 5858* (MEL, PERTH). Tas.: hills between Forcett and Nugent, *J.G. & M.H.Simmons 1705* (PERTH); 8 km N of Whitemark, Flinders Is., 29 Nov. 1952, *J.Calaby s.n.* (MEL).

Notes

G.Bentham, *Fl. Austral.* 2: 325, 332 (1864) was unsure of the application of the name *A. genistifolia*, referring to it under both *A. trinervata* and *A. juniperina* (= *A. ulicifolia*). Nomenclature and synonymy was subsequently clarified by A.B.Court, *Muelleria* 2: 157 (1972).

Phyllodes are usually 1–4 cm long and rather widely spreading, but occasionally (especially coastal areas from Wilson's Promontory N to the N.S.W. border) they may be ascending to erect and may reach 8 cm long. A broad phyllode variant (to 6 mm wide) is recorded for eastern Tas., *fide* M.Simmons, *Acacias Australia* 44 (1981) (e.g. saddle below Mt Amos, T. & J.Whaite 2679, NSW).

Recent serological evidence suggest a relationship between *A. genistifolia* and *A. verticillata*; see P.Brain & B.R.Maslin (1996), *Biochem. Syst. & Ecol.* 24(5): 379–392.

Similar to *A. aculeatissima* which has variably hairy, finely ribbed branchlets and finer, narrower, usually shorter phyllodes with a well-developed pulvinus. Occurs with *A. siculiformis* near Little Swanport, Tas., where both species are prostrate (M.Simmons, pers. comm.); *A. siculiformis* has generally shorter peduncles, 5-merous flowers and narrowly oblong to oblong pods.

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

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



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Biodiversity, Conservation
and Attractions
Western Australian Herbarium



Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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