

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia haematites Maslin



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

Common Name

Koolyanobbing Ironstone Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Known from only a single range near Koolyanobbing, c. 50 km NE of Southern Cross, W.A.

Description

Diffuse shrub to c. 1 m tall. Upper branches dividing into \pm numerous, short, **straight, rigid, spinose** or **sub-spinose, glabrous branchlets**. Bark grey. **Stipules** early **caducous**, 1–2 mm long, not fused. Phyllodes **narrowly oblong** to **narrowly lanceolate**, narrowed towards apex, 6–12 mm long, 1–2 mm wide, **pungent** by a slender **subulate** dark brown **cuspid** 1–1.5 mm long, flat, **straight, patent, rigid, glabrous** or **hirtellous** as on **branchlets** but hairs slightly shorter; **midrib** \pm prominent, upper margin 2-nerved below **gland** and 1-nerved above **gland**; **sessile** with **pulvinus** \pm absent; **gland** not prominent, (1–) 2–5 mm above base. Inflorescences **simple**; heads **globular, \pm sessile**, 5–9-flowered; bracteoles widely **spathulate, \pm sessile**, 1–1.5 x c. 1 mm, concave, brown, **obtuse**. Flowers 5-merous; **calyx gamosepalous**, widely **turbinate**. Pods \pm linear to **sub-moniliform**, to c. 35 mm long (expanded length), 2.5–3 mm wide, irregularly strongly **curved** to openly **coiled** or **twisted, undulate**, prominently **rounded** over seeds, **glabrous**, dark brown to black; **aril clavate**, c. $\frac{1}{2}$ as long as seed.

Phenology

Flowers Aug.–Sept.

Habitat

Grows on the eroded slopes below massive ironstone or lateritized duricrust outcrops of a haematite-rich, Banded Iron Formation range in open shrubland.

Notes

This species was noted by B.R.Maslin, *Fl. Australia* 11A: 473 (2001), as an outlier of *A. acuaria*, based on *B.R.Maslin 1958a*. Indeed, it is most closely related to the more westerly distributed *A. acuaria* which is distinguished by having fused stipules (that fall away as a single unit) and distinctly pedunculate heads that are more numerous flowered; also, the phyllodes of *A. acuaria* are terete to sub-terete (but flat when dry), more slender and possess a less pronounced midrib and have a discernible (but short) basal pulvinus. *Acacia haematites* superficially resembles long phyllode forms of *A. intricata* which are distinguished by bracteoles and calyces either absent or highly reduce and phyllodes that are thicker and strongly 2-nerved along their upper margin (the nerves extending from base to apex, not coalescing at the gland as occurs in *A. haematites*).

Conservation

Acacia haematites is listed as Priority One under Department of Parks and Wildlife Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora.

FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

Author

B.R. Maslin

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



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

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