

# WATTLE

## Acacias of Australia

### *Acacia halliana* Maslin



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Source: Australian Plant Image Index (dig.35008).  
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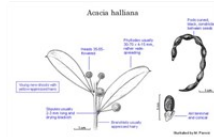
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Acacia halliana occurrence map.  
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Occurs in SE Australia from the Eyre Peninsula, S.A., E to Euston, N.S.W., and Gunbower, Vic.

### Description

Bushy spreading shrub to 2.5 m high. Branchlets flattened and  $\pm$ angled apically, soon terete and ribbed, appressed-puberulous, occasionally glabrous. New shoots pale yellow appressed-hairy. Stipules 2–3 mm long, brittle, often only bases persistent. Phyllodes  $\pm$ inequilateral, narrowly oblong or narrowly elliptic, occasionally oblanceolate, straight to slightly recurved, (2–) 3–7 (–9) cm long, normally 4–15 mm wide, obliquely narrowed at apex to a  $\pm$ straight, sometimes slightly pungent mucro, coriaceous, glabrous or (when young) sparsely appressed-hairy, 1-nerved per face; gland 5–12 mm above pulvinus. Inflorescences simple, commonly 2 per axil, or sometimes rudimentary, 1- or 2-headed racemes with axes to 1 mm long; peduncles 5–10 mm long, glabrous; heads globular, 6 mm diam., (28–) 35–55-flowered, golden. Flowers 5-merous; sepals free. Pods submoniliform,  $\pm$ curved to sigmoid, occasionally twisted at constrictions, to 6 cm long, 1.5–3 mm wide, firmly chartaceous to thinly crustaceous, black. Seeds longitudinal, oblong to elliptic, 3–4 mm long, dull, dark brown; aril terminal, conical, creamy white.

### Habitat

Grows in mallee communities in sand or light brown calcareous loam.

### Specimens

S.A.: c. 0.8 km N of Yeelanna, M.D.Tindale 579 (NSW, PERTH). N.S.W.: 41.8 km W of Balranald on Euston road, 11 Oct. 1947, E.F.Constable s.n. (NSW). Vic.: Big Desert, 9 km S of Murrayville on Nhill road, M.G.Corrick 6385 (MEL).

### Notes

The second variant noted under *A. halliana* by B.R.Maslin in *Fl. Australia* 11A: 577 (2001) is now described as *A. simmonsiana*.

A taxon of uncertain rank from W.A. resembles *A. halliana* in having superficially similar phyllodes and persistent, long stipules (*K.Newbery* 9714 and 11815 from c. 50 km ENE of Ravensthorpe and *S.D.Hopper* 1961 from near Mt Ney, all PERTH); it has, however, pods that are flat, narrowly oblong and curved circinnately, enclosing smaller grey-brown seeds with a lateral aril. It may represent an undescribed infraspecific taxon of *A. halliana* or a new species related to it. The material at hand also resembles *A. mutabilis* subsp. *stipulifera* but it does not have the venation of that species and also differs in pod morphology.

Formerly confounded with *A. microcarpa* which has insignificant stipules, obtuse, glandular phyllode apices,  $\pm$ clavate arils and fewer-flowered heads.

*Acacia halliana* is allied to *A. merrallii* which has thicker, shorter and proportionately broader phyllodes; it also has an orange or bright yellow aril enclosing to 1/3 of seed. A possible hybrid between the two species occurs on Yorke Peninsula, S.A. (8 km from Moonta on Maitland Rd, *B.Copley* 4753, AD). Also related to *A. mutabilis* which has similar venation but the adaxial margin has 2 nerves that coalesce above the gland; in addition, it has fewer flowers per head and  $\pm$ terete pods, slightly or not at all constricted between the seeds.

One variant (not included in the description above) is recognised; it has atypically long peduncles (23–26 mm) and is found in the Gawler Ra., S.A. (e.g. *A.E.Orchard*

2314, AD) where the typical *A. halliana* also occurs, although not known to be sympatric.

#### FOA Reference

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

#### Author

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

B.R.Maslin

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