

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia helicophylla Pedley



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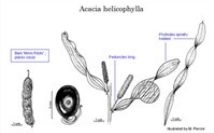
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Acacia helicophylla occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Restricted to tropical N.T. in a small area between Katherine Gorge and Gunlom (UDP) Falls.

Description

Shrub to 4 m high, **viscid**. Bark 'Minni Ritchi', peeling in strips, grey, red-brown to blackish. Upper **branchlets** slightly angular, otherwise **terete**, densely **appressed-puberulous** and with broad irregular bands of **resinous** tissue. Phyllodes **narrowly oblong** to **elliptic** or **oblanceolate**, **undulate** or **spirally twisted**, (3.5–) 5–11 (–12.5) cm long, (4–) 6–30 mm wide, narrowed towards base, **obtuse** to **retuse** with a dark fine **muco** to 3 mm long at apex, minutely **tuberculate**, hairy mostly on 6–8 **longitudinal** nerves and margins, with prominent midnerve and 2–4 subprominent nerves; minor nerves 2 per mm, coarsely **reticulate**; **gland** 1, basal, to 6 mm above **pulvinus**. Spikes 1 or 2 in axils, 1.5–3.5 cm long, yellow. Flowers 5-merous, longitudinally **striate**; **calyx** 0.6–1.2 mm long, dissected to 1/2, **glabrous**; **corolla** 1.4–2 mm long, dissected to 1/2–2/3, **glabrous**; **ovary** **glabrous** or slightly hairy. Pods **narrowly oblong**, sometimes slightly constricted between seeds, **±septate**, **curved** **apiculate**, (1.8–) 2.5–7 cm long, 5–10 mm wide, thinly **coriaceous**, reticulately nerved, with fine **hyaline** hairs to 1.2 mm long or subglabrous. Seeds **longitudinal**, **elliptic**, **turgid**, 4.5–5.7 mm long, dark brown; **areole** **orbicular**, small, closed, often paler than rest of seed and surrounded by a pale halo.

Phenology

Flowers Mar.–Aug.

Habitat

Grows amongst rocks on sandstone cliffs and steep hillsides, in sandy, skeletal soils.

Specimens

N.T.: Edith Falls, *L.G.Adams 1763* (BRI, CANB, DNA, K, L, MEL, NSW, US); UDP Falls, *N.Byrnes 1782* (DNA, NSW); Katherine Natl Park, cult., *M.D.Tindale 6026* (NSW).

Notes

The spirally twisted phyllodes with up to five or six turns in young plants are unique in *Acacia*. The curved, apiculate, **±septate** pods are also unusual. The striate flowers are similar to some tropical species in sect. *Lycopodiifoliae* but the phyllodes are quite different.

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 J.Rogers

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



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Australian
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Resources
Study



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