

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia helmsiana Maiden



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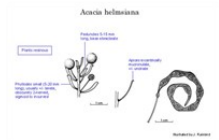
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Acacia helmsiana occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in the arid zone from near Wiluna, W.A., to near Mt Olga, N.T., and in far western S.A.

Description

Glabrous shrub to 2 m high; inflorescences and young growth **resinous**. Phyllodes **sigmoid** to shallowly **incurved**, sometimes **straight**, **terete** to subterete, rarely flat in N.T., 0.5–2 cm long, 0.5–1 (–1.5) mm wide, **rounded-truncate**, **rostriform** with an **excentric** blunt point, **uncinate** to subuncinate, dark green, very obscurely 2-nerved, 1-nerved per face when flat; nerves commonly brownish and slightly **impressed** when dry; **gland** at base of **mucro**. Inflorescences **simple**, 1 per **axil**; peduncles 5–15 mm long, **ebracteate** at base; heads **globular**, 20–30-flowered, light- to mid-golden. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals to 1/2-united. Pods (immature) constricted between seeds, strongly **curved** to 1½-**coiled**, to 4 cm long, 4 mm wide, longitudinally **reticulate**. Seeds (immature) **longitudinal**.

Habitat

Grows on sand plains or dunes, often with spinifex.

Specimens

W.A.: 1.6 km N of No. 11 Well, Canning Stock Route, Aug. 1964, *W.H.Butler et al.* (PERTH); Queen Victoria Spring Nature Reserve, *D.J.Pearson 222* (PERTH). N.T.: 35 km WSW of Mt Olga, *P.K.Latz 5732* (NSW, PERTH). S.A.: 1.5 km E of Vokes corner on road to Emu Junction, *N.N.Donner 7334* (NSW).

Notes

Some specimens from N.T. are unusual in having flat phyllodes 7–13 mm long.

Because of its presumed relationship to *A. abrupta* this species is referred to the '*A. wilhelmiana* group'. However, its non-racemose, ebracteate peduncles suggest close affinities to the '*A. johnsonii* group'. *Acacia abrupta* has longer, obscurely 4-nerved phyllodes with a basal gland and either bracteate peduncles in racemes or non-racemose, ebracteate peduncles. As these are both arid zone resinous shrubs with globular flower-heads and relatively short phyllodes, they are easily confused.

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



Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy



Department of
Biodiversity, Conservation
and Attractions
Western Australian Herbarium



Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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