

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia implexa* Benth.



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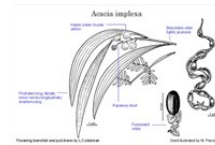
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Acacia implexa occurrence map.  
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

### Common Name

Lightwood, Hickory Wattle, Screw-pod Wattle, Bastard Myall, Lignum Vitae, Fish Wattle, Broad-leaf Wattle, Weetjellan (D'harawal)

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Widespread and sometimes common, occurring in Qld on the Atherton Tableland and then from Shoalwater Bay S along the coast and tablelands through eastern N.S.W. and Vic. to Port Phillip Bay, and also on King Is., Tas.

### Description

Tree 3–15 m high, often gregarious due to suckering; bipinnate leaves may persist on young plants. Bark rough, greyish. Branchlets terete, not prominently ribbed, commonly lightly pruinose, glabrous. Phyllodes narrowly elliptic, falcate, 7–20 (–35) cm long, 6–25 mm wide, much-narrowed at base, acute to acuminate, sometimes ±obtusely, thinly coriaceous, green, glabrous, with 3–7 main nerves and numerous longitudinally anastomosing minor nerves in between. Inflorescences 4–8-headed racemes; raceme axes 10–45 (–60) mm long, glabrous; peduncles 6–15 mm long; heads globular, 5–6 mm diam., 30–52-flowered, pale yellow to ±white. Flowers 5-merous; sepals 3/4-united. Pods linear, coiled and twisted, to 25 cm long, 4–7 mm wide, ±woody or thick-coriaceous, glabrous. Seeds longitudinal, oblong-oval, 4–5 mm long, subglossy, dark brown; funicle/aril fleshy, white, folded beneath the seed.

## Habitat

Grows in a variety of situations but often in shallow soil on hills in open forest.

## Specimens

Qld: Binna Burra, Lamington Natl Park, *R.Cumming 3154* (PERTH). N.S.W.: Dungay Ck road, *I.B.Armitage 1537* (NSW, PERTH). A.C.T.: c. 2 km N of Mt Majura, *A.M.Lyne 106* (PERTH). Vic.: Briagolong State Forest, *A.C.Beaglehole 77464* (MEL, PERTH). Tas.: King Is., May 1944, *A.D.Hardy* (MEL).

## Notes

*Acacia implexa* var. *brevipes* (A.Cunn.) Domin, which G.Bentham, *Fl. Austral.* 2: 389 (1864), had suggested appeared to be a variety of *A. melanoxyton*, is distinct from both species. According to L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 223 (1978), it is conspecific with the Hawaiian *A. heterophylla* Hook. & Arn. (= *A. koa* A.Gray). The type of *A. brevipes* A.Cunn., described from cultivated material, is at Herb. K and this disposition appears to be correct, insofar as comparative material we have seen of *A. koa*.

Often confused with *A. melanoxyton*.

Based on gross morphology of *R.Coveny 5485* (BRI, CANB, K, NSW, PERTH), *A. implexa* possibly hybridises with *A. trinervata* at Grose Wold, N.S.W.

As reported by G.M.Cunningham *et al.*, *Pl. W New South Wales* 364 (1981), stock deaths have been caused by ingestion of green pods and the wood has been used for turning, furniture making and for fuel. Further information on the biological and ecological features, and the utilisation potential, of this species is given in B.R.Maslin and M.W.McDonald, *AcaciaSearch: Evaluation of Acacia as a woody crop option for southern Australia*, RIRDC Publication No. 03/017, 98–102 (2004).

## 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.Rogers

R.S.Cowan, B.R.Maslin

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



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Biological  
Resources  
Study



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