

# WATTLE

## Acacias of Australia

### *Acacia inaequilatera* Domin



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See illustration.



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

### Common Name

Fire Wattle, Kanji, Corky Kanji, Camel Bush (Pilbara)

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Found from North West Cape E to Lake Disappointment, on Nerrima and Luluigui Stns in the southern Kimberley region, and from near Balgo S to the Blackstone Ra., W.A., and NE to near to Davenport Ra., N.T.; also north-west S.A.

### Description

Somewhat gnarled **glabrous tree** 2–4 m high, sometimes to 8 m, frequently with a single,  $\pm$ crooked **trunk** and craggy branches. Bark thick, corky. **Branchlets** normally **pruinose**. **Stipules spinose**, sometimes only bases persisting. Phyllodes inequilaterally **ovate** to **elliptic** or **obovate**, sometimes  $\pm$ obliquely **orbicular**, (1.5–) 2–6 (–7) cm long, (6–) 15–35 (–45) mm wide, variably **undulate**, normally **acute** to **acuminate**, **pubescent**, **coriaceous**, dull green to grey-green or bluish grey, **glabrous**; **midrib** prominent and near lower margin; **lateral** nerves forming a close, normally prominent **reticulum**. Inflorescences terminal or **axillary** racemes; **raceme axes** 5–18 cm long and (together with the peduncles) purple-red and often **pruinose**; peduncles mostly twinned and 1–2 cm long; heads **globular**, 30–40-flowered, golden, occasionally orange; buds dark purple-red. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals free, sometimes shortly united. Pods strongly **curved** to openly 1½ **coiled**, irregularly **coiled** and twisted following **dehiscence**, to 11 cm long, 6–8 (–10) mm wide, firmly **chartaceous** to thinly **coriaceous**, **pruinose**. Seeds longitudinally **oblique**, **oblong** to  $\pm$ **orbicular**, 4.5–6 mm long, dull, brown, ½ to fully encircled by **funicle**.

## Phenology

Flowers May–Aug.

## Habitat

Grows in sand or sandy loam, often on rocky hills, in tall shrubland with spinifex ground cover.

## Specimens

W.A.: 10 km SSE of Luluigui Strn, *M.Lazarides 6545* (PERTH); upper Rudall R. area, *B.R.Maslin 2055* (K, NSW, PERTH). N.T.: Bloods Ra., *C.Dunlop 1908* (PERTH); 125 km NW of Yuendumu, *J.R.Maconochie 1004* (K, NSW, PERTH). S.A.: SW of Mt. Cuthbert, *P.E.Conrick 789* (AD).

## Notes

Very fire tolerant and rapidly regenerates from seed and resprouts from the base and/or develops epicormic growth following fire. Seeds (green or mature) and gum eaten by Aborigines, and the bark used for medicinal purposes.

Most closely related to *A. trudgeniana*; phyllodes and inflorescences often similar to those of *A. marramamba*. Formerly confused with *A. pyrifolia* which has non-corky bark, symmetrically elliptic to ±orbicular or obovate phyllodes with ±central midribs and lateral nerves forming a less prominent reticulum, pale-coloured peduncles, raceme axes and flower buds, and short funicles which do not encircle the seeds.

A few specimens with unusually small phyllodes (15–30 mm long, 6–16 mm wide) occur the Hamersley Ra. and on Legendre Is. in the Dampier Archipelago. Flower heads are normally yellow (but the stamens are red at the base of their filaments); occasionally the heads are orange due to filaments being red throughout and contrasting with the yellow anthers.

## FOA Reference

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

## Author

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



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Biodiversity, Conservation  
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Western Australian Herbarium



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