

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia intorta Maslin



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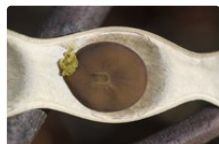
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See illustration.



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

Common Name

Narrow-phyllode Snakewood

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in NW W.A. mainly in the upper reaches of the Ashburton R. between Bulloo Downs Stn and Mt Vernon Stn; there are outliers on Wongawol Stn near L. Carnegie and Mt Florance Stn in the Pilbara.

Description

Rather gnarled, **rigid shrub** or **tree** 1.5–3 (–4) m high, main branches somewhat **contorted** and normally spreading horizontally. Bark **fibrous, fissured**, grey. **Branchlets glabrous**. Phyllodes **erect, straight** to shallowly **incurved**, usually **terete** or subterete, (4–) 5–10 (–12.5) cm long, (1.5–) 2–4 mm wide, apices drawn out into a needle sharp brown point, **rigid**, normally subglabrous, **glabrous**, indistinctly multistriate. Inflorescences **rudimentary** 1-headed racemes with **axes** c. 0.2 mm long, often growing out; peduncles 5–15 (–20) mm long, **glabrous** or sparsely **puberulous**; spikes 1–3.5 (–5) cm long, not densely flowered, golden. Flowers **5-merous**; sepals 3/4-united or united into a **± truncate calyx**. Pods **narrowly oblong**, flattened but **rounded** over seeds and not or only shallowly constricted between them, 4–9 cm long, 5–9 mm wide, firmly **chartaceous, glabrous**. Seeds **longitudinal, elliptic** to **oblong** or almost circular, (4–) 7–9.5 mm long, dark brown; **funicle/aril** small.

Phenology

Flowers May.–July., occasionally with pods in Oct.

Habitat

Grows in alkaline clay, on ridges, slopes and saline flats, in shrubland.

Specimens

W.A.: 27.4 km NW of Mt Vernon HS, *J.S.Beard 6113* (PERTH); 32 km from Wongawol towards Carnegie Stn, *A.R.Fairall 1944* (PERTH); c. 10 km NE of Tangadee HS, *B.R.Maslin 5286* (CANB, PERTH).

Notes

A very rare, flat phyllode form with phyllodes to 4 mm wide is represented by *B.R.Maslin 5286* from the type locality. At first glance it might be referred to *A. xiphophylla* or *A. burrowsiana* whose phyllodes are consistently flat, not sharply pungent and normally broader. The species is poorly collected and further material may clarify the unusually large variation in fruit size, as well as the frequency of the flat phyllode variant. The above three species have a distinctive 'Snakewood' growth form.

Related to *A. sibina* which differs in its non-gnarled habit, often longer phyllodes, shorter peduncles and denser spikes.

FOA Reference

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

Author

Edited by B.R.Maslin

R.S.Cowan

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



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