

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia intricata* S.Moore



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B.R. Maslin



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See illustration.



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

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Occurs from Bencubbin and Jaurdi Stn S to Lake Grace and Lake King, south-western W.A.

### Description

Compact intricate **glabrous shrub** 0.15–0.5 (–1) m high, sometimes forming **prostrate** mounds. Ultimate **branchlets ascending** to **erect**, short, **straight, rigid**, somewhat **spinose**, yellow-ribbed, **interstices green**, sometimes **pruinose**. **Stipules caducous**. Phyllodes **sessile**,  $\pm$ **patent**, usually **ovate** to widely **ovate**, usually 2–4 mm long, 1–3 mm wide, **pungent, rigid**, thick, green to **glaucous**, prominently 1-nerved per face; **adaxial margin thickened** and 2-nerved, with **adaxial marginal nerves** sometimes coalescing. Inflorescences **rudimentary binate** racemes with **axes** < 0.5 mm long; peduncles 1.5–4 mm long, **recurved** in fruit; basal **bract caducous, cucullate**; heads showy, **globular**, 7–13-flowered, bright golden; bracteoles absent or resembling sepals. **Calyx** absent or reduced to a single **linear sepal**; petals 5. Pods **curved** to openly once-**coiled**, to 25 mm long, usually 2–2.5 mm wide. Seeds **longitudinal**, 2.7–2.9 mm long, commonly **mottled**; aril 1/2 or more length of seed, white.

### Habitat

Occurs in loam, clay and gravelly sand, in woodland and mallee shrubland.

### Specimens

W.A.: 19 km due S of Southern Cross, *B.R.Maslin 6014* (K, PERTH); 5 km E of Tarin Rock, *K.Newbey 2826* (BM, CANB, K, MEL, NSW, PERTH); 11 km SSE of Jaurdi HS, c. 63 km E of Koolyanobbing, *K.Newbey 8857* (PERTH).

### Notes

There is considerable variation within this species in the Southern Cross-Koolyanobbing area. At one extreme are plants that grow to 1.5–2.5 m tall, have oblong to narrowly oblong or sometimes linear phyllodes 5–12 (–20) mm long and pods 3–4 mm wide; these plants may superficially resemble *A. acutata* or *A. haematites*. The appears to be a complex array of variation connecting these long-phyllode individuals with plants of typical *A. intricata* and further study is needed to assess their taxonomic status.

Related to *A. coatesii*. *Acacia erinacea* has similarly small phyllodes, spinose branchlets and is sometimes prostrate, but it has innocuous phyllodes which lack a thickened adaxial margin, longer peduncles and straight pods with oblique seeds.

### 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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Minor edits by J.Rogers

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



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