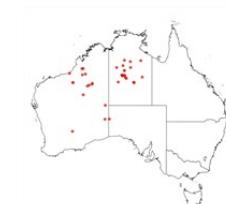
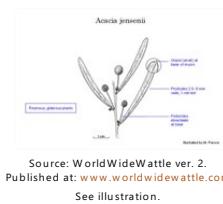


WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia jensenii Maiden



Common Name

Spear Wattle, Mulyati

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Scattered and infrequent in the north-western and central arid zone, W.A., and at Lake Surprise, Tanami Desert, N.T. Also in the Edgar Ra., southern Kimberley, W.A.

Description

Spindly, open shrub or tree 2–6 m high, with one or two slender main stems from the base, glabrous, resinous. Closely related to *A. dictyophleba* and *A. sabulosa* but distinguished in the following ways: Phyllodes linear to linear-ob lanceolate or narrowly elliptic, 2.5–6 cm long, 3–6 mm wide, l:w = 7–13, prominently 1-nerved per face, occasionally with an imperfect longitudinal nerve parallel to midrib; lateral nerves longitudinally anastomosing and normally not overly prominent; basal gland oblong, infrequently linear, 0.5–1 mm long, 0–3 mm above pulvinus. Mature pods and seeds not seen, but immature pods 7–8 mm wide and probably with oblique seeds.

Habitat

At Lake Surprise, N.T., this species grows on the upper slopes and crests of sand dunes, while in the Edgar Ra., W.A., it occurs in sandstone gullies.

Specimens

W.A.: c. 17 km (by track) SW of Well 35, Canning Stock Route, A.S.George 15654 (BRI, DNA, PERTH); Edgar Ra., K.F.Kenneally 5630 (PERTH, TLF). N.T.: Lake Surprise, Lander R., J.R.Maconochie 1689 (DNA, NSW, PERTH).

Notes

Used for spears by Aborigines.

Along with *A. melleodora* and *A. sabulosa* this species may possibly be better treated as an infraspecific taxon of *A. dictyophleba*. However, the absence of mature pods and limited habit/habitat details make it difficult to accurately assess its status. Most reliably distinguished from *A. dictyophleba* and *A. melleodora* by its narrow, usually linear and 1-nerved phyllodes. The spindly open habit of *A. jensenii* helps to further distinguish the species from its relatives, but a variant of *A. dictyophleba* with similar growth characteristics is discussed under that species. Phyllodes superficially similar to *A. orthotropica* from Kimberley region, W.A., but the two species probably not especially closely related.

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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Minor edits by J.Rogers

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

