

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia kettlewelliae Maiden



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See illustration.



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

Common Name

Buffalo Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs along the Great Divide from around Tumut, N.S.W., S to Mt Buffalo and near Omeo, Vic. A variant occurs in the Kybeyan Ra., N.S.W.

Description

Bushy **shrub** or **tree** usually 2–10 m high. **Branchlets** angled at extremities, **glabrous**. Phyllodes on raised **stem**-projections, narrowly (**oblong**-) **elliptic** to narrowly **oblanceolate**, usually 4–10 cm long and 4–10 mm wide with $l:w = 8-13$, **mucronulate**, thin, green to **glaucous**, **glabrous** except **pulvinus** normally sparsely **hirtellous** adaxially, 1-nerved per face; **lateral nerves** obscure; **gland** submerged and swollen within the **lamina**, with **orifice** at distal end of **gland** and usually downward-pointing, usually 5–15 mm above **pulvinus**. Inflorescences **racemose**, prolific in upper axils; **raceme axes** mostly 1–7 cm long, \pm **glabrous**; peduncles 2–4 mm long, \pm **glabrous**; heads **globular**, usually 8–11-flowered, bright light golden. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals united to near their apices; **ovary** usually **glabrous**. Pods 5–10 cm long, 6–14 mm wide, firmly **chartaceous**, \pm **pruinose**, **glabrous**, dehiscing unilaterally. Seeds normally **longitudinal** to **oblique**, **oblong-elliptic** to **ovate**, 4–5 mm long, \pm dull, black; **aril clavate**.

Habitat

At high altitudes it grows in montane forest, but it also grows on lower slopes and near streams.

Specimens

N.S.W.: on the banks of the Tumbarumba Ck, 8.1 km from the main road junction in Tumbarumba and on the road to Tumut, *N.Hall H79/101* (MEL, NSW, PERTH); Alpine Way, Kosciuszko Natl Park, *J.Pickard & R.Coveny 2778* (NSW, PERTH). Vic.: Tambo R., c. 27.3 km E of Omeo, *A.C.Beaglehole 41549* (MEL); Paradise Falls, 13 km SSE of Whitfield, *B.R.Maslin 5946* (MEL, PERTH).

Notes

Hybrids with *A. pravissima* (see Fig. 29 I) occur at Paradise Falls, north-eastern Vic. (e.g. *F.E.Bienvenu 0005*, MEL). These hybrids resemble *A. semibinervia*. A putative hybrid, involving the same parents, is also known in cultivation from material collected from the Snowy R., N.S.W. (e.g. *W.Molyneux s.n.*, PERTH01506293).

In Vic. and southern N.S.W. two forms can often be recognised in the field. In drier woodland sites it occurs as a shrub c. 2 m high, with short, narrow (to c. 5 mm wide), slaty grey-green to glaucous phyllodes; this form may resemble *A. boormanii* var. Mt Typo (*F.E.Bienvenu 11*). In wetter forests it occurs as a shrub or small tree to 10 m high, with long, broad (to 10 mm wide), olive green to sage dark green phyllodes.

The taxonomic status of *A. oreophila* and *A. walteri* requires further investigation; J.H.Willis, *Victorian Naturalist* 73: 157 (1957), regarded them as conspecific with *A. kettlewelliae*. The types are flowering specimens which differ from *A. kettlewelliae* in their densely hairy ovaries and more numerous flowers per head (i.e. 17–20; *A. oreophila* is erroneously given as 10–14-flowered in protologue). Also, in *A. oreophila* the gland is pustulate and exerted with a minute central orifice; in *A. walteri* there are 1–3 glands which, although somewhat similar to those of *A. kettlewelliae*, have a larger orifice which does not point downwards.

Acacia kettlewelliae appears to be most closely related to *A. pataczekii* and *A. prominens*.

Plants from the Kybeyan Ra., N.S.W., are unusual in being shrubs 1–2 m high with small phyllodes (1–3 cm long, 3–4.5 mm wide, l:w = 3–7, gland 1–6 mm above pulvinus), e.g. *J.Pickard & R.Coveny 2822* (CANB, NSW, PERTH). These may represent a distinct taxon and there are indications that they hybridise with *A. kybeanensis*.

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.Reid & J.Rogers

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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