

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia leptocarpa A.Cunn. ex Benth.



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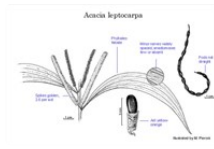
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Kym Brennan



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2. Published at: www.worldwidewattle.com
See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in tropical Australia from Carlton Hill Stn in northern W.A. eastwards to Arnhem Land and the Gulf of Carpentaria, including offshore islands of N.T. (N of c. 17°S), to Cape York southwards along the eastern coast to c. 26°S, Qld. Also recorded from southern New Guinea, *vide* L.Pedley, *Contrib. Queensland Herb.* 18: 19 (1975).

Description

Tree to 15 m high, rarely a shrub to 4 m. Bark 'ironbark' type, dark grey to almost black. Branchlets angular towards apices, lenticellate, glabrous. Phyllodes narrowly elliptic, attenuated towards both ends, markedly falcate, (8–) 11–20 (–27) cm long, (6–) 10–35 (–55) mm wide, thinly coriaceous, glabrous, with 3 prominent main nerves (the lower 2 often confluent towards base and the uppermost sometimes confluent with upper margin before reaching apex); minor nerves 1–3 per mm, longitudinal, occasionally anastomosing; gland usually 1, basal, conspicuous. Spikes 3.5–9.5 cm long, yellow to golden. Flowers 5-merous; calyx 0.4–0.9 mm long, sinuate or dissected to 1/4, with fimbriate margins, ±glabrous; corolla 1.3–2 mm long, dissected to 1/2, glabrous; ovary densely pubescent. Pods slightly or variably constricted between and raised over seeds, curved, curled or twisted, 8–15 cm long, 2–3.5 (–5) mm wide, thinly coriaceous to chartaceous, glabrous. Seeds longitudinal, oblong-elliptic, 3–4 mm long, dark brown; pleurogram U-shaped; funicle-aril massive, longer than seed, yellow-orange.

Habitat

Grows in open eucalypt and/or *Melaleuca* woodlands, in sandy or rocky soils, sometimes on laterite.

Specimens

W.A.: Carlton Hill Stn, *M.W.McDonald* 1919 (BRI, CANB, PERTH). N.T.: Croker Is., Cape Croker, *C.R.Dunlop* 6946 (BRI, DNA, MEL, NSW); 25 km W of Borroloola, *M.O.Parker* 966 (DNA, K, NSW). Qld: 56.8 km by road NW of 'Lakeland Downs', *R.G.Coveny* 7011 & *P.Hind* (BRI, CANB, K, MEL, NSW, QRS, US); c. 14 km SW of Agnes Water, *L.W.Jessup* 347 & *G.P.Guymer* (BRI, CANB, ILL, K, MEL, MO, NSW, PERTH).

Notes

Details of ecology, utilisation, etc. of *A. leptocarpa* are given in J.W.Turnbull (ed.), *Multipurpose Austral. Trees & Shrubs* 152 (1986).

Similar to *A. cowleana* and *A. elachantha* but distinguished by a combination of its glabrous branchlets, glabrous and thinner phyllodes, commonly longer flower-spikes which occur in groups of 2–5 within the phyllode axils and its generally longer, more curved or twisted pods. Possibly also with affinities to *A. tropica* and *A. rubricaulis*. A putative, rare hybrid between *A. leptocarpa* and *A. polystachya* occurs NW of Townsville (*R.J.Cumming* 14870, BRI).

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



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Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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