

# WATTLE

## Acacias of Australia

### *Acacia leptopetala* Benth.



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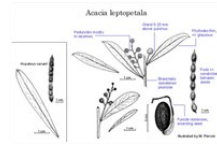
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See illustration.



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

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Occurs from near Bencubbin S to Nyabing and E to near Ravensthorpe, south-western W.A.

### Description

Commonly a **dense** and multistemmed, **glabrous shrub** 2–3 m high. **Branchlets** sometimes **pruinose**. Phyllodes usually narrowly **elliptic** to narrowly **oblongate**, sometimes **recurved**, 2–5.5 (–6.7) cm long, 3–11 (–20) mm wide, l:w = 3–9, **acute** to **obtuse** or **acuminate**, frequently subcinate, thinly **coriaceous**,  $\pm$ **glaucous**, with raised **midrib**, finely **penninerved**; **gland** inconspicuous, usually 5–20 mm above **pulvinus**. Inflorescences mostly 3–6-headed racemes, sometimes a few **simple**; **raceme axes** (0.5–) 1–3 (–4.5) cm long; peduncles 3–8 (–15) mm long; heads **globular**, 3.5–4 mm diam., 25–35-flowered, light golden. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals free. Pods **linear**, **rounded** over seeds and usually  $\pm$ constricted between them, to 9.5 cm long, 4.5–6 mm wide, thinly **coriaceous** to slightly **crustaceous**, often slightly **pruinose**, **glabrous**. Seeds **longitudinal**, **ovate**, **oblong** or **elliptic**, usually 5–6 mm long, dull, black; **funicle filiform**, 3/4 to completely encircling seed in 1 or 2 folds, light brown to red-brown; **aril** thick.

### Habitat

Grows in clay, loam, sandy loam, sand and sandy gravel, mostly in flatlands, in mallee scrub.

### Specimens

W.A.: near Welbungin, *C.A.Gardner* 6469 (PERTH); 18 km S of Ravensthorpe towards Hopetoun, *B.R.Maslin* 3901 (PERTH); c. 4 km due NW of Nalyaring Well, *B.R.Maslin* 5332 (PERTH); 123 mile peg [c. 5 km] W of Kellerberrin, *R.D.Royce* 6776 (B, BRI, CANB, G, K, MEL, NSW, NY, PERTH).

### Notes

The *Oldfield* specimen cited by G.Bentham in *Fl. Austral.* 2: 370 (1864) under *A. leptopetala* is *A. murrayana*. This error led G.Bentham, *Trans. Linn. Soc. London* 30: 472 (1875), and F.J.H. von Mueller, *Iconog. Austral. Acacia* dec. 5 (1887), to misapply the name *A. leptopetala* to *A. murrayana* and J.H.Maiden, *J. & Proc. Roy. Soc. New South Wales* 49: 495 (1916) to regard the two names as synonymous.

A member of the '*A. microbotrya* group', closely related to *A. meisneri* and *A. merrickiae*. Future studies may show that the three entities are better treated as infraspecific taxa of a single variable species. Presumed hybrids occur between *A. leptopetala* and *A. merrickiae* (e.g. *B.R.Maslin* 594, MEL, NSW, PERTH). Similar to *A. chysella*.

A polymorphic species in which meaningful infraspecific taxa cannot be defined at present. Plants with conspicuously pruinose branchlets predominate in the Bungulla–Kellerberrin area and this form is sometimes difficult to distinguish from *A. meisneri* and *A. merrickiae*. The type of *A. leptopetala* appears to be referable to this pruinose form. Plants lacking pruinosity or only slightly pruinose are more common and this form includes the type of *A. subglauca*. Specimens from the Hopetoun–Ravensthorpe area have  $\pm$ oblong phyllodes with the gland only 3–4 mm above the pulvinus, pods not or scarcely constricted between the seeds, seeds 4–4.5 mm long, areole open (closed elsewhere) and funicle 1/2 encircling seeds. They resemble *A. subcaerulea* which is distinguished by its sharply angular branchlets, broadly oblong pods with transverse seeds, and racemes which are subtended by bracts when young.

## FOA Reference

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

## Author

Minor edits by J.Rogers

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



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Study



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