

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia leptostachya Benth.



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

Common Name

Slender Wattle, Townsville Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs from the E central part of Cape York Peninsula near Coen through coastal and inland districts as far S as Maryborough and Boatman Stn, S of Charleville, Qld. It also occurs near Riversleigh Stn (c. 200 km NW of Mt Isa).

Description

Small **shrub** to **tree**, 0.5–6 m high. **Branchlets** usually **appressed-puberulous** except on ribs. Young shoots **resinous**, not **viscid**. Phyllodes narrowly **elliptic** to **lanceolate**, sometimes almost **linear**, **straight** or shallowly **curved**, (3.5–) 4–9 (–12) cm long, 2–12 (–20) mm wide, usually subglabrous to **pubescent** with silvery **appressed** hairs, with numerous fine rather close (mostly 5–7 per mm) nonanastomosing nerves, with 2 or 3 more prominent. Inflorescences 2-headed racemes, 1–5 (–10) mm long; peduncles 1–3 (–5) mm long, normally **appressed puberulous**; receptacles **glabrous**; spikes 2–4 cm long, subdense to **interrupted**, golden. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals united, golden **puberulous** to \pm **glabrous**; **ovary** densely hairy. Pods **linear**, raised over seeds, to 6 cm long, 2–9 mm wide, firmly **chartaceous** to thinly **coriaceous**, **glabrous**. Seeds **longitudinal** or (when pods broad) **transverse**, **oblong**, 2.7–4 mm long, shiny, brown; **aril** small.

Habitat

Grows in deep sand and skeletal soil on sandstone or granite in eucalypt woodland, open eucalypt forest or *Triodia* hummock grassland.

Specimens

Qld: 11 km SW of beach at Yeppoon towards Rockhampton, *R.Cumming 3219* (PERTH); Boatman [Stn], *S.L.Everist 5624* (BRI *n.v.*); 36 km S of Riversleigh Stn, *A.J.Gray & D.M.Gordon 3340* (BRI); Blackdown Tableland, *W.G.Trapnell 39 & K.A.Williams* (BRI).

Notes

A variable species. Further study is required to elucidate the complex variation patterns, *vide* L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 7: 354 (2006). The variation is especially marked in

the species' habit, phyllode dimensions, indumentum of calyx, and pod width, *vide* L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 144 (1978). Following L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 144 (1978), *A. capillosa* is treated as conspecific with *A. leptostachya*, but specimens agreeing with the type of *A. capillosa* are very distinctive in having densely pubescent to villous (almost velvety) branchlets, phyllodes and peduncles. The hairs of the indumentum are not closely appressed as in typical *A. leptostachya* (young plants of typical *A. leptostachya* have pubescent branchlets and phyllodes).

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