

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia ligulata* A.Cunn. ex Benth.



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See illustration.



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

## Common Name

Dune Wattle, Sandhill Wattle, Small Cooba, Umbrella Bush Wirra and others

## Family

Fabaceae

## Distribution

Widespread in central and southern arid Australia, occurring in all mainland states.

## Description

**Dense shrub** or **tree** 2–3 m high, normally **glabrous**. **Branchlets** light brown, sometimes slightly **scurfy** and distinctly yellow-ribbed. Phyllodes commonly **patent**, usually **linear** to narrowly **elliptic**, (2.5–) 3–7.5 (–9) cm long, (2–) 4–14 mm wide with l:w = 5–19, often **uncinate**, with **recurved** to **straight mucro**, usually thick (therefore  $\pm$ coarsely wrinkled when dry), green, infrequently **glaucous**, 1-nerved; glands commonly 3, with lowermost 2–20 mm above **pulvinus**, and **distal** glands smaller with one at base of **mucro**. Inflorescences 2–4 (–6)-headed racemes; **raceme axes** 3–20 (–30) mm long; peduncles 2–10 (–15) mm long; heads **globular**, subdense, 19–24-flowered, deep golden. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals united into a **truncate calyx**. Pods **patent-erect**, commonly  $\pm$ **straight-sided** or slightly constricted between seeds, to 9 cm long, 5–10 mm wide, thick, **woody**, light brown with often a paler median stripe. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong-elliptic**, normally 4–6 mm long, shiny, brown; **aril** yellow-orange or red.

## Habitat

Usually grows in sand, often in mulga and mallee communities.

## Specimens

W.A.: 4 km S of Menzies towards Kalgoorlie, *B.R.Maslin 1931* (AD, DNA, K, MEL, NSW, PERTH). N.T.: 57.9 km SW of Amaroo HS, *G.Chippendale 1410* (BRI, DNA, PERTH). S.A.: 16 km NW of Ceduna, *N.Hall H80/65* (BRI, PERTH). Qld: 11.3 km W of Dynevor Downs, *L.Pedley 2466* (PERTH). N.S.W.: Menindee aerodrome, 16 June 1955, *E.F.Constable s.n.* (DNA, NSW). Vic.: 22.3 km N of Speed on the Sunraysia Hwy, *N.Hall H80/39* (NSW, PERTH).

## Notes

A variable member of the '*A. bivenosa* group' which has historically been confused with *A. salicina*, *vide* A.R.Chapman & B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 8: 266 (1992). It is closely related to *A. bivenosa* and in places the two seem to hybridise. *Acacia bivenosa* is commonly distinguished by its 2-nerved phyllodes and normally indeterminate racemes, usually growing out. However, *A. bivenosa* sometimes has 1-nerved phyllodes and *A. ligulata* is usually distinguished from these plants by its thicker phyllodes with l:w more than 5 and mucro recurved to straight, peduncles normally less than 10 mm long and woody pods. Some S.A. specimens have atypically narrow phyllodes (2–3 mm wide) which resemble those of *A. cupularis*. Plants from the type locality at Shark Bay, W.A., resemble the closely related *A. rostellifera*. They are characterised by short (2.5–3.5 cm), narrowly elliptic-oblongate, thin, punctulate phyllodes, small inflorescence and seeds, and aril which partially sheaths the end of the seed. In W.A. *A. ligulata* forms putative hybrids with *A. sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma* and *A. tysonii*.

The leaves and branches of this species are used traditionally by N.T. aborigines as a diaphoretic for several complaints, including certain disturbances of the nervous system, *vide*, Aboriginal Communities of the Northern Territory, *Traditional Aboriginal Medicines in the N. Terr. of Australi* a 16–19 (1993) (Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory of Australia, Darwin).

## FOA Reference

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

## Author

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Minor edits by J.Rogers

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



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