

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia ligulata A.Cunn. ex Benth.



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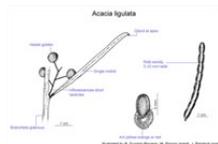
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Acacia ligulata occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

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

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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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