

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia limbata F.Muell.



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See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in tropical Australia, from the Ord Region, W.A. to the McArthur R., N.T., and extreme north-western Qld.

Description

Shrub 0.4–2 m high, slender, **glabrous**, **resinous**. Bark longitudinally **fissured**, grey or greyish brown. **Branchlets** ±flattened towards apices, often **pruinose**, **glabrous**; ridges prominent, non-**resinous**. Phyllodes often **continuous** with **branchlets**, obliquely narrowly **elliptic**, **elliptic-oblong** or **oblanceolate**, often **dimidiate**, **straight** to subfalcate or rarely **falcate**, (5–) 6–10 (–12) cm long, 10–25 (–33) mm wide, with pale prominent margins, subcoriaceous, **glabrous**, with 3 prominent **longitudinal** nerves (2 **continuous** from base to apex, 1 **confluent** with lower margin near base) and 3 or 4 subprominent parallel nerves; minor nerves 2–3 (–4) per mm, **anastomosing**; **gland** 1, basal, 0.2–3.8 mm above **pulvinus**. Peduncles usually (15–) 20–40 (–50) mm long. Spikes 0.9–2.5 cm long, bright yellow. Flowers 5 **merous**; **calyx** 0.5–0.8 mm long, dissected for 1/3–1/2, **glabrous**; **corolla** 1.2–1.8 mm long, dissected for 1/3–1/2, **glabrous**; **ovary** **glabrous**. Pods **erect**, mostly narrowly **oblanceolate**, **straight**-sided, ±flat, 3.8–8.5 cm long, (8–) 10–15 mm wide, ±**woody**, reddish- or purplish-brown, paler over seeds, sometimes **pruinose**, obliquely nerved, **glabrous**, opening elastically from a hooked apex; seed partitions thick. Seeds **oblique**, **elliptic** to **obovate**, 4.6–6.6 mm long, brownish black; **funicle-aril** **turbinate**.

Phenology

Flowers Mar.–July.

Habitat

Grows on sandstone, in gravelly soils on stony hillsides, in open eucalypt woodland, usually near creeks, often with *Melaleuca* species.

Specimens

W.A.: Wade Ck, Osmond Ra., *I.D.Cowie* 1900 (BRI, CANB, DNA, K, MEL, NSW, PERTH); 44 miles [70 km] from Bedford Downs Stn towards Tablelands Stn, Kimberley, *C.H.Gittins* 1433 (NSW). N.T.: headwaters of McArthur R., *S.T.Blake* 17771 (BRI, NSW). Qld: Gregory–Lawn Hill road, *C.H.Gittins* 1266 (CANB, NSW); 27 km NW of 'Corinda', *S.Jacobs* 1511 (CANB, K, NSW).

Notes

Acacia limbata is allied to *A. anastomosa*, *A. argyraea* and *A. lazaridis*.

The description above excludes several similar specimens from Qld that differ from *A. limbata*, viz. Riversleigh Holding, *C.H.Gittins* 799 (NSW), Camooweal–Gregory road, c. 42 km beyond Thornton HS, *C.H.Gittins* 164 (NSW), and c. 3 km E of The Monument, *P.L.Harris* 628 (BRI). L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 169 (1978), refers to a possible undescribed taxon, which these specimens may represent. They have larger phyllodes (9–12 cm long, 1.8–3 cm wide), a more prominent basal gland, longer pulvini (4–6 mm) and shorter peduncles (5–10 mm long). These specimens also have pubescent ovaries, glandular hairs on the calyx and longer pods (7–10 cm) than *A. limbata*. Further investigation is required.

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 B.R.Maslin & J.Rogers

Dr M.D.Tindale and Dr P.G.Kodala with the assistance of M.Bedward, S.J.Davies, C.Herscovitch, D.A.Keith and/or D.A.Morrison

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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