

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia longispicata Benth.



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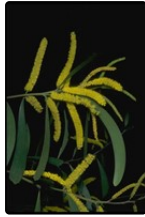
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Acacia longispicata occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in Qld N of the Mitchell–Theodore area to about Mount Garnet.

Description

Erect single-stemmed **tree** to 10 m high. Bark smooth towards top, rough and **fibrous** at base, dark brownish grey. **Branchlets** angular, stout, tawny yellow to pale maroon, \pm **pruinose**, with minute, **appressed** hairs. Phyllodes very narrowly **elliptic** to **elliptic, oblique**, flat, sometimes **dimidiate** but more commonly shallowly to obviously **falcate**, (8–) 10–19 cm long, 13–46 mm wide, usually larger on juvenile than adult plants, **coriaceous**, silvery grey to **glaucous**, occasionally silvery green, usually **appressed-puberulous**, sometimes **glabrous**, with 3 main prominent nerves (lower 2 often running together near base and often close to lower margin but not **confluent** with it) and conspicuous marginal nerves; minor nerves **sub-distant** (3–5 per mm), some longitudinally **anastomosing**; **gland** 1, basal, large, to 1 mm above **pulvinus**. Spikes 3–10 (–12) cm long, golden, the flowers **dense** to **sub-dense** or sometimes \pm widely spaced; peduncles 3–10 (–12) mm long. Flowers 5-merous; **calyx** 0.5–0.8 mm long, dissected to 1/6, **pubescent** sometimes only at base; **corolla** 1.5–1.8 mm long, dissected to c. 1/2, **glabrous**; **ovary** densely **pubescent**. Pods slightly **moniliform**, **curved**, twisted, 3–11.8 cm long, 2.5–3.5 mm wide, thinly **crustaceous**, occasionally slightly longitudinally ridged over seeds, **glabrous**, dark brown. Seeds **longitudinal**, 2.5–4.5 mm long, dark brown; **areole** almost closed (further material needed); **aril** yellow.

Phenology

Flowers June–Aug. in northern populations, late July–Sept. in the south.

Habitat

Grows as scattered trees in eucalypt woodland or open forest, in sandy soils or red earths, occasionally in skeletal soils, often on hillsides; dense pure stands common on roadsides (especially in the Taroom–Theodore area).

Specimens

Qld: c. 131 km S of Charters Towers turnoff, Hughenden–Mt Garnet road, *P.D.Hind 1061* & *C.K.Ingram* (CANB, MEL, NSW, PERTH, TL); Lonesome Natl Park, *R.Johnstone 724* & *S.Davies* (BRI, NSW); 11 miles [17.6 km] N of Mt Sturgeon, *I.V.Newman 508* (NSW); between Theodore and Taroom, *L.Pedley 4161* (BRI, NSW).

Notes

Acacia longispicata is member of the taxonomically complex 'A. *cunninghamii* group' (see *A. concurrens*) that includes, among other species, *A. concurrens*, *A. crassa*, *A. leiocalyx* and *A. tingoorensis* (which was treated *A. longispicata* subsp. *velutina* in *Fl. Australia* 11B: 165–166, 2001). According to L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 177 (1978) *A. longispicata* is usually easily identified by its large silvery phyllodes and long spikes, but there is a fair range of variation. Care is often needed not to overlook the minute, appressed branchlet hairs.

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:



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