

# WATTLE

## Acacias of Australia

### *Acacia macraneura* Maslin & J.E.Reid



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B.R. Maslin



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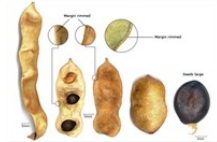
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See illustration.



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

### Common Name

Big Mac Mulga

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Mostly confined to W.A. where it is scattered from near Mt Magnet and Leonora (110 km W of Laverton) N to the southern Pilbara region and the Rudall R. area in the northern Little Sandy Desert; also in S.A. from Mt Agnes (near the W.A.–S.A. border).

### Description

Spreading, **multi-stemmed shrub** commonly 2–5 m high, sometimes an **obconic tree** to 4–6 (–7) m, stems and branches often somewhat crooked. **Branchlets** minutely **appressed-puberulous** and obscurely ribbed at extremities, the ribs often with a layer of translucent resin; new shoots **resinous**, with **scattered** red-brown glandular hairlets. Phyllodes **incurved** or **sigmoid** to **sinuous**, normally **terete**, 4–7 (–9) cm long, 0.8–1.1 mm diam., green to grey-green with bluish tinge, **longitudinal** nerves numerous and obscure; **gland** 0–3 mm above the **pulvinus**, **phyllode** normally swollen, **curved** upwards and/or **±kinked** at **gland**. Inflorescences **simple**; peduncles 5–15 mm long, **±glabrous**; spikes 10–20 mm long. Flowers **5-merous**; sepals free or shortly united at base,  $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{2}{3}$  length of petals; petals 1.3–1.5 mm long. Pods **oblong** to **narrowly oblong**, (1.5–) 2–7 (–10) cm long, 12–22 mm wide, thinly **coriaceous**, flat or **undulate**, slightly to obviously **rounded** over the seeds, normally yellow to light brown and **glabrous**, **resinous**; margins rimmed by a thick, **resinous nerve**. Seeds transverse, **oblong** to **elliptic** or round, **compressed**, 7–9.5 mm long, 5–7 (–8) mm wide; **aril** small.

### Habitat

Mostly found in clay or loam associated with calcrete, often on floodplains or shallow drainage systems, in open mixed Mulga communities with ground cover comprising grasses (e.g. *Aristida contorta*, *Enneapogon polyphyllus*) or low shrubs such as *Ptilotus* spp. or *Eremophila* spp.

### Specimens

W.A.: Upper Rudall R. area, *B.R.Maslin 2216* (BRI, CANB, K, PERTH); 54 km N of Gascoyne Junction on rd to Eudamullah Stn, *B.R. Maslin, J.Miller & J.E.Reid BRM 9175* (AD, PERTH); 0.4 km S of Carrowina Ck [NE of Newman], *P.G.Wilson & R.Rowe PGW 956* (BRI, NSW *n.v.*, PERTH). S.A.: Mt Agnes, Blyth Ra., 25 Sept. 1955, *W.S.Reid s.n.* (AD).

### Notes

Sometimes putatively hybridizes with *A. paraneura* on floodplains near Newman in the Pilbara, e.g. *B.R.Maslin & J.E.Reid BRM 10071* (PERTH) and rarely with *A. pteraneura* near Meekatharra, e.g. *B.R.Maslin 9065* (PERTH); seemingly also rarely putatively hybridizes with *A. craspedocarpa* and possibly *A. aptaneura* (see these species for notes). L.Pedley, *loc. cit.*, suggested that the unusual specimen *B.R.Maslin 2183* (PERTH) from the Rudall R. in the Little Sandy Desert may be a hybrid between *A. aneura* var. *macrocarpa* (= *A. macraneura*) and *A. ramulosa*; B.R.Maslin & J.E.Reid, *Nuytsia* 22(4): 221–228 (2012), agree that hybrid origin for this specimen is likely but they regard parentage as uncertain.

A member of the '*A. aneura* group' (Mulga) most closely related to the more widespread and common *A. aptaneura* but distinguished by its normally broader, more thickly textured and commonly paler-coloured pods containing larger seeds, and by its generally more shrubby grow form; also, its phyllodes are often slightly thicker, shorter, more prominently curved or sinuous and more discernibly swollen or kinked at the gland than in *A. aptaneura*. In the absence of pods it can sometimes be difficult distinguishing between these two species. The phyllodes of *A. macraneura* are always terete (flat to terete in *A. aptaneura*). Genetically *A.*

*macraneura* is related to *A. fuscaneura* but morphologically the two species are very dissimilar, see B.R.Maslin & J.E.Reid, *loc. cit.*, for discussion.

This taxon was treated as *A. aneura* var. *macrocarpa* by L.Pedley, *Fl. Australia* 11B: 317 (2001), but B.R.Maslin & J.E.Reid, *loc. cit.*, consider it warrants recognition as a distinct species.

#### FOA Reference

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

#### Author

B.R.Maslin

L.Pedley

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



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Biological  
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Study



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