

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia maitlandii F.Muell.



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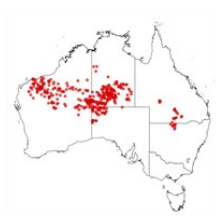
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Acacia maitlandii occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Maitland's Wattle, Spiky Wattle, Spiny-leaved Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Widespread in the arid zone from Dampier and Mt Augustus, W.A., to the western margin of the Simpson Desert, N.T., and Serpentine Lakes area, S.A.; further E it occurs from near Windorah and Jericho, Qld, S to near Enngonia, N.S.W.

Description

Openly branched, **erect**, normally rather straggly **shrub** 1–4 m high, becoming rather bushy in well-watered sites. **Branchlets** red to brown, **lenticellular**, **glabrous**, **resinous-viscid**, scarred where phyllodes have fallen. **Stipules** 0.5–1.5 mm long, **erect**, often enveloped in resin. Phyllodes **patent** to **inclined**, variable, \pm asymmetrically narrowly **elliptic** to **oblong-elliptic** or **oblong-obovate**, (6–) 7–25 (–30) mm long, (1.5–) 2–4 (–5) mm wide with l:w = 3–10, **pungent** with a slender **cuspid**, **rigid**, green, **glabrous**; **midrib** prominent, rarely with an obscure second **nerve**, **lateral** nerves obscure or absent; **pulvinus** 0.5 mm long, yellow. Inflorescences **simple**, 1 per **axil**; peduncles 1–2 (–2.5) cm long (often exceeding the phyllodes), **glabrous**; heads **globular**, c. 9 mm diam. (fresh), densely 50–90-flowered, golden. Flowers mostly 5-**merous**; sepals free, **linear-spathulate**. Pods **rounded** over and slightly constricted between seeds, 2–7.5 cm long, (3–) 4–5 (–10) mm wide, firmly **chartaceous**, **glabrous**, somewhat **viscid** when young. Seeds **longitudinal**, **elliptic** to **ovate**, 3.5–4.5 mm long, dark brown, slightly **mottled**, cream on periphery and bordering **pleurogram**, **exarillate**.

Phenology

Flowers May–Aug.

Habitat

Grows in red sand on plains or dunes, or sometimes on rocky slopes, often in mulga scrub, spinifex country or eucalypt open woodland.

Specimens

W.A.: Upper Rudall R. area, *B.R.Maslin 2118* (CANB, MEL, PERTH). N.T.: 29 km SE of Aileron town-ship, *M.Lazarides 5771* (K, MO, NSW, PERTH). S.A.: c. 4 km N of Mt Lindsay, *P.J.Wilson 2499* (AD). Qld: 11 km from Charleville towards Cunnamulla, *I.B.Armitage 917* (PERTH). N.S.W.: Burrawantie Str, *W.E.Mulham 1079* (NSW).

Notes

Related to *A. minutissima*, *A. subtiliformis* and *A. walkeri*; its exarillate seeds and pungent phyllodes suggest affinities with the '*A. pyrifolia*' and '*A. murrayana*' groups. It superficially resembles *A. siculiformis*.

The first and second variants noted under *A. maitlandii*, B.R.Maslin in *Fl. Australia* 11A: 388 (2001) are now described as *A. walkeri* and *A. minutissima* respectively. *Acacia maitlandii* regenerates from a woody root-stock following cool fire but is killed by hot fire. Although this species is not known in cultivation it may possibly be useful as an ornamental suitable for rocky planting in dry inland areas. Notes on Aboriginal use of *A. maitlandii* in central Australia are provided by P.Latz, *Bushfires & Bushucker* 107 (1995).

The species is rather variable in phyllode shape and size. A specimen with atypically broad pods (about 10 mm wide) is recorded for the Carnarvon Ra., W.A. (*M.Hancock 3*, PERTH).

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



Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy



Department of
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and Attractions
Western Australian Herbarium



Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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