

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia marramamba Maslin



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See illustration.



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

Common Name

Marramamba

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Scattered in the Pilbara region of north-western W.A. from Duck Ck Stn E to Balfour Downs Stn, and in the adjacent Barlee Ra. and upper catchments of the Ashburton, Gascoyne and Murchison R. (as far south as Mt Fraser). Not a particularly common species and although it does not form dense populations it is generally not uncommon where it occurs.

Description

Shrubby **glabrous tree** 2–3 m high, sometimes to 5 m. Bark slightly **fissured** and **fibrous** towards base of trunks, otherwise smooth (not corky). **Branchlets** red, light brown or orange. **Stipules spinose**, commonly absent from mature nodes, mostly 2–4 mm long. Phyllodes inequilaterally **elliptic**, with a conspicuously **rounded adaxial** margin and almost **straight abaxial** margin, 2–5 cm long, 9–23 mm wide, scarcely **undulate**, **acute to acuminate**, **pungent**, **coriaceous**, pale green to subglaucous, not obviously **pruinose**; **midrib** prominent and **excentric**; **lateral nerves** obscure and sparingly **anastomosing**. Inflorescences **racemose**; **raceme axes** 6–15 cm long and (together with peduncles and buds) red to red-brown; peduncles twinned, 1–2 cm long; heads **globular**, 25–35-flowered, light golden to mid-golden. Flowers **5-merous**; sepals \pm free; petals red to red-brown at apices. Pods **narrowly oblong**, **straight to shallowly curved**, to 7.5 cm long, 7–9 mm wide, **chartaceous** to thinly **coriaceous**, light brown. Seeds mostly **oblique**, broadly **elliptic** to almost **orbicular**, dull, black, 4.5–5 mm long; **funicle** not encircling seeds; **aril clavate**.

Phenology

Flowers May–July.

Habitat

Grows in skeletal sandy loam on rocky hills (Marra Mamba Iron Formation) in open scrub or tall open shrubland with spinifex ground cover.

Specimens

W.A.: 3 km SSW of Mt Fraser [Mt Padbury Stn], *R.J.Cranfield 5719* (PERTH); Rhodes Ridge, 53.5 km NW of Newman, *B.R.Maslin 4610* (K, MEL, NY, PERTH); 16 km S of Kumarina on Great Northern Hwy, *B.R.Maslin 4965* (PERTH); 22 km ESE of Quarry Hill [Duck Ck Stn], *K.Newbey 10707* (CANB, PERTH); Mt Augustus, *K.Newbey 11707* (CANB, PERTH).

Notes

A member of the '*A. pyrifolia* group'. Phyllode shape and inflorescence structure are often similar to that of *A. inaequilatera* which has thick, corky bark, normally pruinose branchlets, mostly broader, closely reticulate phyllodes, purple-red racemes, peduncles and flower buds, as well as funicles which \pm encircle the seeds. Also related to *A. trudgeniana*.

Can resprout from the base following fire.

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:



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Study



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