

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia maxwellii Maiden & Blakely



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See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Extends from near the Stirling Ra. E to Israelite Bay, south-western W.A.

Description

Prostrate shrub, sometimes domed, to 0.4 m high. Branchlets puberulous with patent to appressed hairs. Stipules subpersistent, 1–2 mm long. Phyllodes erect, linear, rarely terete, straight to shallowly curved, 1.5–6 cm long, 1–3 mm wide, obtuse and excentrically mucronulate, occasionally acute, ±thick, rugose when dry, green, glabrous; midrib impressed when dry; gland 0.5–3.5 mm above pulvinus, sometimes absent. Inflorescences mostly 1–3-headed racemes; raceme axes 0.5–3 (–5) mm long, commonly growing out during anthesis; peduncles 1–2 cm long, glabrous to sparsely appressed-puberulous; heads globular, 5 mm diam., 11–17-flowered, pale yellow to cream. Flowers 5-merous, glabrous; sepals c. 3/4-united, with lobes broadly triangular. Pods linear, not constricted between seeds, to 4 cm long, 4–5 mm wide, crustaceous, dark brown, glabrous. Seeds longitudinal, broadly oblong-elliptic to circular, turgid, c. 3 mm long, dull, light brown; aril thick.

Habitat

Grows in sand, sandy loam, gravelly loam and clay, in shrub mallee and mallee heath, often along watercourses.

Specimens

W.A.: 1.6 km S of Jerramungup towards Albany, *B.R.Maslin 2587* (PERTH); 12 km N of Israelite Bay on track to Balladonia, *E.C.Nelson ANU16509* (PERTH); c. 3 km NE of Howick Hill, *A.E.Orchard 1124* (MEL, PERTH).

Notes

The type locality has not been located on modern maps.

A variant with terete phyllodes, 15–30 mm long, is known from a single specimen collected from near Mt Heywood (*K.Newbey 7952*, PERTH: in very young fruit); the typical form of the species occurs nearby.

Also similar in general appearance to *A. pachyphylla*.

It is probable that the Baxter syntype of *A. ramosissima* is *A. cupularis*; apart from this specimen it is not known what others G.Bentham may have confounded with this name (see Bentham's comment in *Fl. Austral.* 2: 360 (1864)).

Resembles superficially *A. cupularis* which usually has an erect habit, glabrous branchlets, phyllodes with a ±central mucro, much shorter peduncles and generally more flowers per head.

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 J.Rogers

B.R.Maslin

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



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