

# WATTLE

## Acacias of Australia

### *Acacia megalantha* F.Muell.



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See illustration.



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

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Occurs near Mount Isa, Qld, and in the Arnhem Land ranges (and Victoria River region), N.T., S to the east Kimberley region, W.A.

### Description

**Resinous shrub** to 4 m high. Bark  $\pm$ smooth, grey. **Branchlets**  $\pm$ flattened towards apices, orange-brown, **squamulose**. Phyllodes narrowly **elliptic** or **elliptic**, often **oblique**, (4–) 5–11 (–13.5) cm long, (10–) 14–28 mm wide, **coriaceous**, **rigid**, mostly with 3 prominent **longitudinal** nerves; minor nerves (2–) 4–6 (–7) per mm, **longitudinal**, normally non-**anastomosing** except at apex and base; **gland** 1, basal, inconspicuous. Spikes 1.4–3.5 (–5) cm long, golden. Flowers 5-**merous**; **calyx** 1.1–1.5 mm long, dissected to 1/4–1/3, sometimes **squamulose** or slightly hairy; **corolla** 2.9–4 mm long, dissected to 7/12–4/5, **glabrous**; **ovary** **tomentose**. Pods  $\pm$ **straight-sided**,  $\pm$ **straight** to **curved**, flat, 3–10 cm long, (6–) 7.5–11 mm wide, **woody**, **glabrous**; margins pale, thick. Seeds **longitudinal**, **orbicular** to broadly **elliptic**, 4.8–6.2 mm long, light brown, minutely pitted; **pleurogram** prominent; **areole** closed, light- to mid-brown.

### Phenology

Flowers Apr.–Sept.

### Habitat

Grows on sandstone, in shallow soil on rocky hillsides and plateaux in eucalypt-spinifex woodland.

### Specimens

W.A.: Helicopter Spring, South Turkey, *I.Cowie 1880* (CANB, DNA, PERTH). N.T.: 25 km WNW of Twin Falls, Kakadu Natl Park, *L.A.Craven 6230* (CANB, NSW); Koolpin Gorge, *C.Dunlop 3600* (DNA, NSW); Keep River Natl Park, *C.Dunlop 5822* (DNA, NSW); range E of UDP Falls, *C.H.Gittins 2614* (NSW). Qld: 27.2 km from Mount Isa on Camooweal road, *C.H.Gittins 750* (NSW); Lake Moondarra, Mount Isa, *R.G.Coveny 477* (NSW).

### Notes

The large individual flowers on interrupted spikes are distinctive, as are the faint transparent longitudinal nerves in the corolla. The specimen 'Keep R., N.T., *A.S.Mitchell 326* (DNA)' has large phyllodes (to 13.5 cm long) and spikes (to 5 cm long, 12 mm wide). The minor nerves on the phyllodes of plants from Qld are more widely spaced (2–4 per mm) than elsewhere (4–7 per mm).

### 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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