

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia merrallii F.Muell.



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Source: Australian Plant Image Index (dig.828).
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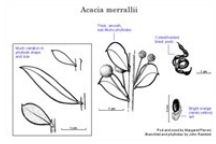
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Acacia merrallii occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Merrall's Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs from Wubin to Pingrup, south-western W.A. E to Madura, W.A. and the Moonta–Maitland area, Yorke Peninsula, S.A.

Description

Dense ± rounded spreading shrub to 1.5 m high. Branchlets usually minutely puberulous with straight or slightly curved hairs. Phyllodes obliquely obovate to elliptic-orbicular or oblong-elliptic, rarely ovate, usually 8–25 mm long and 5–17 mm wide with $l:w = 1.2-3$, often slightly undulate, with innocuous to ± pungent curved or straight mucro, thick, coriaceous, smooth, grey-green to glaucescent, finely appressed-hairy when young, commonly glabrescent; midrib obscure; lateral nerves ± absent; margins prominent, yellowish; gland on lower half of phyllode, not raised. Inflorescences rudimentary, 1–3-headed racemes to 1 mm long; peduncles 6–18 mm long, glabrous; heads globular, 4–5 mm diam., 22–35-flowered, golden. Flowers 5-merous; sepals free. Pods arcuate to ± irregularly coiled, semi-terete, to 2 cm long (unexpanded length), 2–3 mm wide, thinly coriaceous-crustaceous, dark brown to black, glabrous or subglabrous. Seeds longitudinal, c. 2.5 mm long; aril conspicuous, enclosing to 1/3 of seed, usually orange.

Habitat

Grows in clay, sandy clay, sand, sandy loam and clay loam.

Specimens

W.A.: near Jibberding, *W.E.Blackall 3783* (PERTH); 26 km E of Madura on Eyre Hwy, *A.S.George 11831* (PERTH); 15 km W of Kambalda, *B.R.Maslin 1906* (AD, DNA, PERTH). S.A.: 54.5 km towards Streaky Bay from road junction 6 km E of Ceduna, *N.Hall H80/69* (NSW, PERTH); 16 km E of Pimba, 30 Sept. 1961, *J.H.Willis s.n.* (PERTH).

Notes

A variable species with several variants (some of which probably deserve formal recognition) falling outside the morphological parameters given above. The most common are: 1. phyllodes narrower than normal (2–4 mm wide, $l:w = 3-4$), arils bright yellow. Occurs especially near Salmon Gums, W.A. (e.g. *B.R.Maslin 5447b*, PERTH); 2. phyllodes atypically elongate (2–4 cm long, 5–8 mm wide, $l:w = 3-7$). Occurs in the Norseman area and E of Coonana, W.A. (e.g. *R.D.Royce 5452*, PERTH); 3. branchlets densely tomentose to minutely woolly; phyllodes 15–30 mm long, 6–10 mm wide, ± appressed-pubescent but glabrescent, with apical mucro often incurved. Occurs near Newdegate, W.A. (e.g. *B.R.Maslin 3851*, PERTH); 4. stipules persistent, peduncles coarse. Occurs in the Grass Patch to Truslove area, W.A. (e.g. *B.R.Maslin 6111*, PERTH); 5. seeds with vivid yellow aril, fruiting peduncles to 23 mm long. Occurs in Bending, W.A. (e.g. *B.R.Maslin 6504*, PERTH); and, 6. phyllodes 5–6 mm long, widely elliptic to nearly circular with raised midrib. Occurs in Grass Patch area, W.A. (e.g. *B.R.Maslin 5444*, PERTH). Related to *A. acoma*, *A. mutabilis*, *A. glaucissima* and *A. sericocarpa*. Appears to hybridise in places with *A. poliochroa* and *A. tetraptera* in W.A. and with *A. halliana* in S.A. In many respects similar to *A. excentrica* (the variant from Ravensthorpe Ra. in particular) which has narrowly elliptic to oblong-elliptic phyllodes with the midrib usually central, as well as pubescent to villous branchlets. Distinguished from the sometimes aborescent *A. ligustrina* by less elongate, much thicker phyllodes with solitary glands. Inflorescences and pods suggest affinities with *A. glaucoptera*, a species with bifurcately winged branches which was placed in series *Alatae* by G. Bentham, *Fl. Austral.* 2: 320 (1864). *Acacia bracteolata* is similar in phyllode shape and size. Some forms may resemble *A. dorsenna*.

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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Minor edits by J.Reid

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



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