

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia microcarpa F.Muell.



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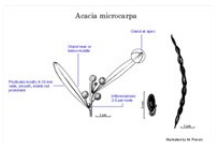
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Acacia microcarpa occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Manna Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in SE Australia from the Eyre Peninsula near Wudinna, S.A., E to Mallee Cliffs Natl Park, N.S.W., and to Gunbower, Vic., with an isolated occurrence farther E in N.S.W. in the Goolgowi–West Wyalong area.

Description

Glabrous shrub to 2.5 m high. Branchlets somewhat angled at extremities. Stipules insignificant. Phyllodes normally ob lanceolate, sometimes oblong-ob lanceolate, elliptic or elliptic-ob lanceolate, straight to shallowly incurved, (1.6–) 2–5.5 (–7) cm long, (3–) 4–10 (–19) mm wide with l:w = 4–10, obtuse but frequently obliquely so, often retuse, slightly thickened, smooth; midrib not prominent; lateral nerves absent or obscure; glands 2, with apical gland adjacent to mucro, and lower one near or below phyllode middle, 0.5 mm long and normally shallowly concave. Inflorescences rudimentary 1-headed racemes with axes c. 0.5 mm long, 2–5 per node; peduncles 4–10 (–12) mm long, drying yellow or blackish; heads globular, 14–25-flowered, bright mid-golden. Flowers 5-merous; sepals free. Pods linear, prominently raised over seeds, slightly to prominently curved, to 8 cm long, 2–5 mm wide, firmly chartaceous. Seeds longitudinal, elliptic to widely elliptic-oblong, 3–4 mm long, subnitid, dark brown; aril ± clavate, 1/4–1/3 length of seed.

Habitat

Found in a variety of vegetation formations and soil types.

Specimens

S.A.: Wudinna, *R.H.Kuchel 3302* (AD, PERTH); between Cambrai and Sedan, *D.J.E.Whibley 4474* (AD). N.S.W.: 5 km NE of Goolgowi, *G.M.Cunningham 3347* & *P.L.Milthorpe* (NSW, PERTH). Vic.: Big Desert, 21 km N of Broken Bucket bore, *M.G.Corrick 6344* (MEL, PERTH); Gunbower, Oct. 1913, *Anon. s.n.* (MEL1500691).

Notes

Acacia halliana was formerly included within this species, *vide* B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 6: 35–46 (1987). Bentham's description in *Fl. Austral.* 2: 357 (1864) contains elements of both species as does the Mueller illustration which is cited above.

Similar to *A. praemorsa* which has much narrower phyllodes. Short phyllode forms (i.e. c. 2 cm long) may resemble *A. triquetra* which has branchlets more obviously angled, phyllodes usually with only an apical gland and straight to shallowly curved pods. Short phyllode forms may also resemble *A. acinacea*.

Acacia microcarpa together with *A. acinacea*, *A. imbricata*, *A. praemorsa* and *A. triquetra* comprise the '*A. microcarpa* group'; see B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 6: 39 (1987) and P.Lang & B.R.Maslin, *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 13: 118 (1990). Putative hybrids between *A. microcarpa* and *A. triquetra* occur on the Eyre Peninsula.

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 B.R.Maslin & J.Rogers

B.R.Maslin

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



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Biodiversity, Conservation
and Attractions
Western Australian Herbarium



Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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