

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia midgleyi M.W.McDonald & Maslin



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.
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B.R. Maslin



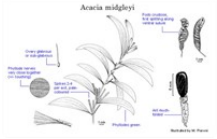
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See illustration.



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

Common Name

Cape York Salwood

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Endemic to Cape York Pen., Qld, where it extends from the Coleman R. N to the Wenlock–Olive rivers region. Most common on the uplands of the eastern side of Cape York Pen.

Description

Trees 8–25 m tall, canopy green, single-stemmed or sparingly divided near base, trunks on oldest plants to 60 (–90) cm diam. Bark hard and shallowly **rimose**. **Branchlets** subterete at extremities, **glabrous**. Juvenile phyllodes highly glossy. Phyllodes **dimidiate** to subfalcate, sometimes **falcate**, 8–12.5 (–16.5) cm long, (0.8–) 1–3.5 (–4.2) cm wide, **glabrous**, mid to dark green (fresh) drying milky green; **longitudinal** nerves numerous, parallel, very closely-spaced (5–10 per mm) and \pm touching; **pulvinus** 4–10 mm long. Inflorescences **simple**, 2–4 per **axil**; peduncles 3–10 mm long, **glabrous**; spikes 3–7 cm long, **interrupted**, almost cream to lemon yellow. Flowers 5-**merous**; **calyx gamosepalous**, shallowly dissected; **ovary glabrous** or sparsely hairy above middle. Pods **narrowly oblong**, flat or 1–3 times **spirally twisted**, \pm **straight**, 5–12 cm long, 1–2 (–2.5) cm wide, dehiscing along **ventral** suture, crustose, **resinous**, +/- transversely nerved, the nerves not prominently raised. Seeds \pm transverse, **ovate**, **elliptic** or **obovate**, 4–7 mm long, 2–4 mm wide, glossy, black; **funicle/aril** many-folded, 3–10 mm long (unextended), creamy-grey or greyish (aging pale yellow).

Habitat

Occurs along river banks, seasonal drainage systems and is a component of rainforests in the region.

Specimens

Qld: 11 km E of Aurukun, *J.R.Clarkson 4515* (DNA, K, MEL, MO, PERTH, QRS); Cape York Pen., Wenlock R. crossing on Coen–Bamaga Rd (71 km N of Weipa turnoff), *M.W.McDonald & B.R.Maslin BRM 7652* (CANB, BRI, NSW, PERTH); Mcllwraith Ra., 28.9 km E along Leo Ck Mine track, *M.W.McDonald 2350 & T.K.Vercoe* (BRI, CANB, K, NSW, PERTH).

Notes

Acacia midgleyi has commercial potential as a forestry plantation species on sites where *A. peregrina* (endemic in New Guinea) and *A. crassicarpa* perform well, but its likely success as a plantation species will depend on comprehensive provenance trials because natural stands exhibit considerable variation in habit.

Acacia midgleyi is a member of the '*A. aulacocarpa* group' related to *A. crassicarpa*, *A. lamprocarpa* and especially *A. peregrina* from New Guinea. It is distinguished from these relatives by the following combination of characters: seedling phyllodes highly glossy, adult phyllodes milky pale green (when dry) with minor nerves very close together, spikes 2–4 per axil and 3–7 cm long, ovary normally glabrous, pods crustose and funicle/aril creamy-grey or greyish, much folded and 3–10 mm long when unextended. A putative hybrid between *A. crassicarpa* and *A. midgleyi* occurs at the northern tip of Cape York Pen. *Acacia midgleyi* is sometimes sympatric with, and superficially resembles, *A. polystachya* but the two species are not particularly closely related; *A. polystachya* is readily distinguished by its narrower pods, yellow funicle/aril encircling the seeds and phyllodes which have 2 of the main nerves running together along the midline near the base.

Acacia midgleyi was mentioned in *Fl. Australia* 11B: 169 (2001) under *A. aulacocarpa*, but was formally recognized too late to be fully described in that volume.

Adult phyllodes show considerable variation in dimensions both within and between populations. Plants from the Mcllwraith Ra. differ in habit and habitat from most other populations of the species. An unresolved entity from Stanley Is., near Bathurst Head, Qld, that resembles *A. midgleyi* requires further study. See McDonald & Maslin, *Australian Systematic Botany* 13(1): 21–78 (2000), for discussion.

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:



Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy



Department of
Biodiversity, Conservation
and Attractions
Western Australian Herbarium



Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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