

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia minutissima Maslin



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.
Published at: www.worldwidewattle.com
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See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in W.A. in a series of discontinuous populations between Balfour Downs Stn in the eastern extremity of the Pilbara region, E to vicinity of Lake Disappointment in the Little Sandy Desert.

Description

Diffuse, intricately and openly branched, low-spreading **shrub** 0.3–1 (–1.5) m high, sometimes **semi-prostrate**, oldest plants somewhat craggy by **persistent**, short **lateral** branches which are denuded of phyllodes. **Branchlets** **lenticellular**, **glabrous**, **resinous**. **Stipules** **persistent**, 0.5–1 mm long, **erect**, often enveloped in resin. Phyllodes asymmetrically **elliptic** to **obtriangular**, broadest at or above middle, lower margin \pm shallowly **convex** or **straight**, the upper margin markedly **convex** and sometimes angled at the **gland**, 3–6 (–7) mm long, 2–3 mm wide, $l:w = 1-1.6$, short-**acuminate** and terminated by a distinct **cusp** 0.5–1 mm long, **glabrous**; **midrib** \pm central, sometimes with an indistinct second **nerve**; **gland** single, at or above centre of upper margin. Inflorescences **simple**, 1 per **axil**; peduncles 6–8 mm long, red (fresh), **glabrous**, base **ebracteate**; heads **globular**, densely 40–50-flowered, golden. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals free, **linear-spathulate**. Pods **linear** to **narrowly oblong**, flat but shallowly **rounded** over seeds, 10–40 mm long, 3–4 mm wide, firmly **chartaceous**, **glabrous**. Seeds not seen but **funicle** probably **exarillate**.

Phenology

Flowers July/Aug.–Sept.

Habitat

Grows in sand or loam, on plains or in swales between dunes, commonly with Spinifex (*Triodia* sp.).

Specimens

W.A.: between Windy Corner and Well 24, Little Sandy Desert, Canning Stock Route, *J.S.Beard* 4923 (PERTH); Balfour Downs Stn, c. 40 km E along Talawana Track, *B.R.Maslin* 8540 (K, PERTH); Little Sandy Desert, *A.S.Mitchell* 1017 (NT n.v., PERTH); Kertland District, 65 km E of Calvert Range, *G.J.Morse* 208 (PERTH).

Notes

Acacia minutissima was noted as the second variant under *A. maitlandii* by B.R.Maslin in *Fl. Australia* 11A: 388 (2001) where it was erroneously recorded as occurring in the Gibson Desert. It is closest to, and superficially resembles, *A. subtiliformis* which is most readily distinguished by its tall, spindly, erect growth form, non-divaricately divided branchlets and differently shaped phyllodes with upper margins less prominently convex and apices less acuminate with a shorter cusp. These two species are related to *A. maitlandii* which has much longer phyllodes.

FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

Author

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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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