

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia minyura (typical variant)



"*Acacia minyura*" by W. Smith.
Commonwealth of Australia

Common Name

Desert Mulga, Shrubby Desert Mulga.

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Ranging from the southern Pilbara and western fringe of the Gibson and Great Victoria Deserts, Western Australia, through southern Northern Territory and central South Australia to Bulgunnia Station, with three widely separated outliers in central-western Queensland.

A possible collection from Narran Lake Nature Reserve (between Brewarrina and Lightning Ridge), central-northern New South Wales (*J.S. Benson & S. Waller*, NSW), requires further investigation.

Description

Rounded or obconic, multi-stemmed shrubs or sometimes trees 1–4 (–5) m tall and about the same across; crowns compact and often grey or bluish grey. Branchlet ribs with a thick, normally opaque (rarely translucent) covering of resin that often persists to mature branchlets as beaded, white lines. New shoots enveloped by a conspicuous layer of resin when young, the resin opaque and whitish grey tinged bluish or translucent and brown. Phyllodes flat, straight and dimidiate to shallowly recurved or shallowly sigmoid, elliptic to oblong-elliptic or oblong-obovate, 5–25 (–30) mm long, (1.5–) 2–4 (–5) mm wide, mucronulate, grey to grey-green, sub-glaucous or glaucous, longitudinal nerves numerous and prominent. Inflorescences single in axils; peduncles 4–12 mm long; spikes 8–15 (–20) mm long. Flowers 5-merous; sepals ±free; corolla 1.4–1.5 mm long, glabrous. Pods shortly stipitate, oblong, flat, mostly 1.5–3.5 cm long, 8–15 mm wide, including wing 1–2 mm wide, chartaceous, brown, reticulately nerved, ±glabrous, dehiscent. Seeds oblique to transverse, oblong, 4.5–6 mm long, 2.5–3.5 mm wide; aril small, terminal, oblique, pileate, creamy.

Phenology

Flowers recorded March–October.

Habitat

Usually grows in sandy soils, particularly in dune swales and occasionally in shallow rocky soils.

Specimens

W.A.: N of Rawlinson Ranges, A.C. Kalotas 1621 (DNA, PERTH); 91 km S of Wiluna on road to Leinster, B.R. Maslin 7068 (AD, BRI, NSW, PERTH).

N.T.: 1.6 miles [2 km] NW of 16 Mile Bore, D.J. Nelson 1599 (DNA); old Ayers Rock road, 36.6 km E of Ranger's Station, M. Lazarides & J. Palmer 225 (BRI, CANB).

S.A.: Bulgunnia Station, 1.7 km SW of homestead, F. Badman 6536 (AD). Qld: near Noonbah Station, Vegemont Creek, R. Dowling WP292 (BRI).

Notes

Typical *A. minyura* has opaque, milky blue-grey resin that envelops the vegetative buds and overtops the branchlet ribs. A less common variant with translucent, brown resin is scattered in Western Australia and probably extends to Northern Territory; see B.R. Maslin & J.E. Reid, *Nuytsia* 22(4): 129–267 (2012), for discussion.

Acacia minyura is a member of the '*Acacia aneura* group' (Mulga) and appears most closely related to *A. mulganeura* (see this species for differences); the P.K. Latz 6873 and Winnecke collections noted by L. Pedley, *Flora Australia* 11B: 325 (2001), are referable to this species. Also related to *A. incurvaneura* which has longer, linear, shallowly incurved phyllodes.

A few specimens with atypically elongate phyllodes (not included in above description) may represent hybrids involving *A. minyura* as one parent, but the other parent is unknown; see B.R. Maslin & J.E. Reid (2012) for discussion.

FOA Reference

Partly based on L. Pedley, *Flora of Australia* 11B: 324–325 (2001).

Author

Revised version by B.R. Maslin (June 2012) and P.G. Kodala (June 2018).

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



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