

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia montana Benth.



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

Common Name

Mallee Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in south-eastern Australia from the Eyre Peninsula, S.A., through Vic. and N.S.W. to near Stanthorpe in south-eastern Qld; it is most common on the inland slopes of the Great Divide and adjacent plains in N.S.W. and Vic.; there is an isolated occurrence from near Angledool Lake, N.S.W.

Description

Viscid **shrub** or **tree** 1–4 m high. **Branchlets** subglabrous to moderately **puberulous**, with hairs often antrorsely **curved** and \pm **appressed**. Phyllodes **narrowly oblong** to **linear** or narrowly **elliptic**, sometimes **oblong-oblancoate**, 1–4.5 cm long, 2–7 mm wide, **obtuse**, rather thin, sometimes obscurely **resinous-punctulate**, **glabrous** or subglabrous, with 2 main often yellowish nerves per face, and minor nerves few and forming an often obscure **longitudinal reticulum**; **gland** not prominent, 0.5–2 mm above **pulvinus**. Inflorescences **simple**, 1 or 2 per **axil**; peduncles 3–10 mm long, **glabrous** or **puberulous**; basal **bract persistent**; heads **globular** to shortly **obloid**, c. 25-flowered, golden. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals 1/4–1/2-united. Pods **linear** or **narrowly oblong**, 2–5 cm long, 2–4 mm wide, **coriaceous** to thinly **crustaceous**, usually **villous**. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong**, 3–4 mm long, \pm shiny, dark brown; **aril** folded at end of seed.

Habitat

Grows in a variety of soils, often in open forest or tall shrubland.

Specimens

S.A.: c. 10 km W Murray Bridge, *D.J.E. Whibley 4198* (PERTH); Uno Ra., NW end, *D.J.E. Whibley 7863* (AD). Qld: Yuraraba, *L. Pedley 4234* (BRI, PERTH). NSW: 18.7 km from Merriwa–Cassilis Rd on Wollar Rd, *R. Coveny 2434* (CANB, PERTH). Vic.: 6 km ESE Rushworth, *T.B. Muir 6984* (MEL, PERTH).

Notes

A member of the *A. verniciflua* complex and sometimes resembling *A. rostriformis* which is distinguished especially by its phyllodes with usually obvious, shallow glandular pits and minor nerves not forming a reticulum. Its phyllodes are sometimes similar to those of *A. ixiophylla*, a species readily distinguished, *inter alia*, by its shortly racemose inflorescences. It also resembles broad phyllode forms of *A. wilhelmiana*, which are distinguished by their light golden puberulous peduncles and non-reticulate phyllodes. Sometimes also resembles *A. sabulosa*.

G. Bentham published the name *A. montana* in 1842, presumably between 11 June and 1 July of that year. Although I.C. Nielsen, *Bull. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat., B, Adansonia* no. 3: 327 (1983), lists '*A. montana* Junghuhn, *Nat. Tijdschr. Ned. Ind.* 5: 626 (1842)' it appears that the latter name (= *Albizia montana*) was not published until 1843 (K. Wilson, pers. comm.).

Putative hybrids between *A. aspera* and possibly *A. montana* have been recorded from the Bendigo district, Vic., *vide* A.B. Court, in J.H. Willis, *Handb. Pl. Victoria* 216 (1973). The NSW record of *A. menzeli* by G.M. Cunningham (*Pl. W New South Wales* 366 (1981)) is based on a misidentification of a specimen (G. Cunningham & P. Milthorpe 2729, NSW PERTH) which represents a taxon of uncertain status but perhaps is a hybrid involving *A. montana* (these two species are thought to hybridise in the Monarto area of S.A.). *Acacia montana* is also thought to hybridise with *A. paradoxa* in the southern Flinder Ra., S.A.

Specimens with glabrous pods are uncommon and were described as var. *psilocarpa*. Formal recognition of this variety does not seem warranted.

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

B.R. Maslin

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



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