

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia neriifolia A.Cunn. ex Benth.



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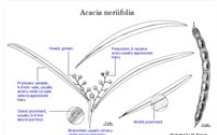
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Acacia neriiifolia occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Oleander (-leaved) Wattle, Bastard Yarran, Silver Wattle, Black Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs mainly on the western slopes and tablelands of the Great Divide in Qld (S of Emerald) and N.S.W. (N of Dubbo). G.Bentham, *Fl. Austral.* 2: 363 (1864) tentatively referred some S.A. specimens to this species; however, *A. neriiifolia* is not known to occur in that State.

Description

Erect shrub or tree to 9 m high; juvenile **bipinnate** foliage sometimes **persistent**. Branchlets **appressed-puberulous** with silvery white hairs (commonly yellow on young shoots), sometimes \pm **glabrous**. Phyllodes narrowly **elliptic** to almost **linear**, **straight** or **recurved**, usually 6–15 cm long and 4–9 mm wide, thin, with **indumentum** as on **branchlets**; **midrib** prominent; **lateral** nerves obscure; glands \pm **pustular**, 1–3, with lowermost usually 0–8 mm above **pulvinus**. Inflorescences **racemose**; **raceme axes** normally 3–6 cm long, slender, **appressed-puberulous** with white or pale yellow hairs, sometimes (especially in fruit) \pm **glabrous**; heads showy, **globular**, 20–40-flowered, vivid golden; peduncles 3–6 mm long, with **indumentum** as on **raceme axes**. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals united; **ovary** hairy. Pods to 15 cm long, 5–10 mm wide, thinly **coriaceous**, **glabrous**. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong-elliptic** or **obovate**, 5.5–6 mm long, \pm dull, black; **aril clavate**.

Habitat

Often on rocky hillsides and ridgetops of granite or sandstone.

Specimens

Qld: 8 km NW of Toowoomba, *L.Pedley 4135* (BRI); 4.6 km SE Kogan, *J.H.Ross 3084* (BRI, PERTH). N.S.W.: Bloomley, 19 Aug. 1950, *L.A.S.Johnston & E.F.Constable s.n.* (NSW, PERTH); Moonbi Lookout, 12.9 km (by road) SSW of Bendemeer, *D.J.McGillivray 2372* (NSW, PERTH).

Notes

Usually distinguished from *A. pustula* by presence of an indumentum and less prominent lowermost gland closer to the pulvinus. L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 2: 353 (1987) treated *A. pustula* as a subspecies of *Racosperma neriiifolium*. A putative hybrid between *A. adunca* and *A. neriiifolia* occurs in the Girraween NP in southeast Qld (e.g. *M.E.Ballingall 2419*, BRI).

Information on the biological and ecological features, and the utilisation potential, of this species is given in B.R.Maslin and M.W.McDonald, pp. 60–67, *AcaciaSearch: Evaluation of Acacia as a woody crop option for southern Australia*, pp. 148–152, RIRDC Publication No. 03/017 (2004).

A variable species in need of critical revision. Typical representatives of *A. neriiifolia* are normally recognised by their thinly coriaceous, commonly shallowly recurved phyllodes 4–9 mm wide, to c. 12 cm long and with a dense indumentum of short, straight, silvery white hairs covering the entire lamina or occurring in patches. They also have a rather prominent gland situated 0–8 mm above the pulvinus. However, in Qld especially, there is much variation: see L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 290 (1980), for discussion. Specimens from the Toowoomba–Crows Nest area often have phyllodes to 12 mm wide with the gland to 2 cm above the pulvinus; the name *A. penninervis* var. *angustata* is likely to be referable to this entity (L.Pedley, pers. comm.). Like some other specimens from elsewhere in Qld the indumentum on these plants may be sparse (sometimes completely absent from branchlets, phyllodes, raceme axes or peduncles, but not all organs simultaneously). Plants from the Granite Belt (around Stanthorpe) and Inglewood are rather large trees with coriaceous phyllodes to 21 cm long; this variant grades into 'typical' *A. neriiifolia*. A specimen from near Kingaroy (i.e. *N.Michael 3019*, BRI) shares characters of both the Toowoomba–Crows Nest variant and *A. pustula*. Typical *A. pustula* occurs near Kingaroy but 'typical' *A. neriiifolia* does appear to grow in the Toowoomba–Kingaroy area. A few N.S.W. specimens of 'typical' *A. neriiifolia* have shorter than normal phyllodes (4–6 cm long, e.g. Warialda, *E.Cheel*, NSW167332, PERTH). Also, a specimen with atypically narrow phyllodes (c. 3 mm wide) collected by *E.N.McKie* (NSW167303) from E.R.Green's property 'Balderleigh', N.S.W., is similar to the closely related *A. ingramii* except that the indumentum occurs in patches over the entire lamina, not confined to the midrib.

FOA Reference

Data derived from *Flora of Australia* Volumes 11A (2001), 11B (2001) and 12 (1998), products of ABRS, ©Commonwealth of Australia

Author

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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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