

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia nitidula Benth.



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See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Restricted to Cape Arid Natl Park and Middle Is. just off the coast, south-western W.A.

Description

Shrub 0.6–2 m high. Branchlets slightly angled apically, sparsely appressed-puberulous or glabrous. Stipules caducous, subulate, 1–1.5 mm long. Phyllodes ascending, narrowly oblanceolate, straight to slightly incurved, 1.5–3 cm long, 2–5 mm wide, obtuse, mucronulate, glabrous, 2-nerved per face; adaxial margin with 2 nerves for 1/4–1/2 length of phyllode; nerves coalescing near the gland. Inflorescences simple, 2 per axil; peduncles 6–13 mm long, glabrous; basal bract caducous, cucullate, rostriform, glabrous; heads globular, 3.5–4 mm diam., 20-flowered, golden; bracteoles spatulate. Flowers 5-merous; sepals free, spatulate. Pods linear, undulate, to 4.5 cm long, 4–4.5 mm wide, coriaceous, glabrous. Seeds longitudinal, widely elliptic, 3 mm long, dull, obscurely mottled brown; aril subterminal.

Habitat

Grows in association with granite among boulders and in granitic gravel.

Specimens

W.A.: Cape Arid, C.A.Gardner 12953 (PERTH); c. 1–2 km NNE of mouth of Thomas R., near Belinup Hill, A.S.Weston 7614 (AD, PERTH); Middle Is., A.S.Weston 8887 (PERTH).

Notes

A member of the '*A. sulcata* group'. Related to the more northerly distributed *A. dura* which normally has linear phyllodes with a single adaxial nerve and pods \pm constricted between seeds. *Acacia nitidula* is perhaps nearest the compressed-phyllode element of *A. sulcata* var. *platyphylla* which has terete to compressed, shorter and narrower phyllodes. Also similar to some forms of *A. mutabilis* subsp. *mutabilis* which have quite regularly 5-nerved phyllodes, and larger, shiny, black seeds with a terminal, conical aril. Possibly related as well to *A. deflexa* and *A. gemina*.

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
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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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