

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia nuperrima Baker f.



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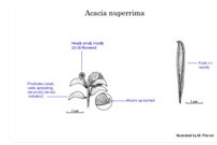
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Acacia nuperrima occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in tropical northern Australia from the Kimberley region of W.A. (especially in the Cape Londonderry, Derby and Fitzroy R. areas) to N.T. (mainly north-western and north-eastern parts) and offshore islands in the Gulf of Carpentaria, into north-western Qld in the Corinda area.

Description

Shrub to 1 (–1.3) m high, **erect ascending** to semiprostrate, often spreading, **glabrous**, **resinous**, often with many slender stems branching at base. Bark smooth to slightly **fissured** at base, grey or brown. **Branchlets** angular towards apices with resin-crenulated ridges, finely lenticellate. Phyllodes rather spreading, narrowly **elliptic** to very narrowly **elliptic**, sometimes slightly wider below middle or **±linear**, **±flat** or sometimes slightly **undulate**, shallowly to markedly **±downwardly curved** and often slightly **sigmoid** to sometimes **straight**, (0.4–) 0.7–2 (–3.5) cm long, (1–) 1.5–3 (–5) mm wide, **coriaceous**; nerves obscure or rarely midnerve and 2 **lateral** nerves scarcely conspicuous; **lamina** finely longitudinally wrinkled to appearing **striate**; apex with an **oblique** small (beak-shaped) **mucro** (hooked **apiculate**); **gland** absent or 1 minute basal **gland** to 1 (–2) mm above **pulvinus**. Peduncles 5–15 (–20) mm long, 0.4–0.6 mm wide. Heads 4–7 mm diam., 10–20 (–23)-flowered, yellow to golden, sometimes paler; bracteoles with **triangular acute** to **acuminate lamina**, mostly about same length or slightly longer than flower calyces; buds spreading. Flowers 5-merous; **calyx** **cupular**, 0.7–1 mm long, dissected to 1/10–1/5, reddish **papillose** towards apex; **corolla** 1.5–2 mm long, dissected by 1/2 or more. Pods **erect**, narrowly **oblanceolate** to **±linear**, **straight-sided**, 2.5–5.5 (–6.5) cm long, 3–5 (–7) mm wide, obliquely nerved; margins subprominent. Seeds **narrowly oblong-elliptic**, 2.7–5 mm long, brown; **funicle-aril** narrowly conical.

Phenology

Flowers Jan.–Oct.

Habitat

Grows in sandy, rocky, sandy clay, lateritic or red loam soils, on plains, ridges or in undulating country, in shrubland, low open woodland, savannah woodland or sometimes open forest, often with eucalypts or *Melaleuca*.

Specimens

W.A.: 55 km E of Durack R., *D.Keith & B.Pellow* 226 (NSW, PERTH, SYD). N.T.: Stuart Hwy towards Borrooloola, *C.H.Gittins* 2468 (BRI, DNA, NSW); 3 miles [4.8 km] SSW of Bing Bong Stn HS, *N.M.Henry* 123 (DNA, NSW); 33 km W of Borrooloola, *M.O.Parker* 967 (CANB, DNA, NSW); Centre Is., Pellow Is. Group, *B.Rice* 2034 (K, NSW, Z). Qld: Corinda Stn, *C.H.Gittins* 1269 (BRI, NSW, PERTH).

Notes

A variable species, especially in the size and shape of the phyllodes, from variably curved-sigmoid phyllodes to long, slightly curved to straight phyllodes. The latter appear to be common in the Groote Eylandt to north-eastern Arnhem Land region, N.T., e.g. *N.Byrnes* 959 (BRI), *I.Cowie* 2034 & *Brocklehurst* (BRI, DNA, MEL, NSW), *R.L.Specht* 582 (BRI, NSW). Some phyllodes may rarely have a setose mucro similar to that of *A. setulifera* (e.g. *Blake* 16312, BRI), but this may be a feature usually lost with age.

There is a possible variant approaching *A. setulifera* in the Timber Creek area, N.T. (see *A. setulifera* notes). Some specimens (especially from the 'Oobagooma'/Mitchell Plateau area in northern W.A.) are difficult to distinguish from *A. translucens* and have bracteoles similar to those found in the latter. Further studies of this group are required.

Acacia nuperrima is closely allied to *A. setulifera* which has smaller, rounded phyllodes with a prominent, fine, apical mucro (setose point), and to *A. translucens* which generally has wider phyllodes and more flowers per head. Also related to *Acacia* sp. *Kununurra* (G.Lullfitz 6195) and *A. stellaticeps* in the '*A. stigmatophylla* group'. Differences between *A. nuperrima* and *A. producta*, also in this group, are described by M.D.Tindale, *Telopea* 2: 119 (1980). Phyllodes sometimes superficially similar to those of *A. wickhamii* subsp. *cassitera*.

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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Minor edits by B.R.Maslin

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



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Australian
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Study



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