

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia orthotropica Maslin, M.D.Barrett & R.L.Barrett



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

Common Name

Mt Trafalgar Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in the Kimberley region of northern W.A. where it is known from only a single population in Prince Regent Natl Park.

Description

Obconic, single-stemmed tree to 4 m tall. *Branchlets terete*, reddish brown, *glabrous*. *Phyllodes narrowly oblong-oblongeolate*, *straight*, 3–6 cm long, (2.5–)3–5 mm wide, *obtuse-mucronate*, thinly *coriaceous*, *erect*, *crowded*, somewhat *imbricate* when dry, *glabrous*; *longitudinal nerves* 2 with central one the most pronounced and *confluent* with lower margin at base, second *nerve* extending for 2/3–3/4 length of *phyllode*, secondary nerves openly *anastomosing*; *gland* single, 1–3 mm above the *pulvinus*. *Inflorescences simple*, initiated within *axil* of immature phyllodes on new shoots; *peduncles* 20–30 mm long, slender, irregularly *curved* or *sigmoid* when dry, *glabrous*; *heads globular*, 30–35-flowered. *Bracteoles* c. 1 mm long, laminae *puberulous* with light golden and white hairs. *Flowers* 5-*merous*; *calyx* normally dissected to about the middle (sometimes to the base) into *oblong*, apically *puberulous*-hirsutulous lobes, the hairs light golden and white; *petals* with hairs at apex as on *calyx*. *Pods* (dehiscent valves) *oblong* to *narrowly oblong*, mostly *straight*-edged, flat, 3–8 cm long, 14–16 mm wide, firmly *chartaceous* to very thinly *crustaceous*, *glabrous*, reticulately nerved, basal *stipe* 4–5 mm long. *Seeds* not seen but were seated in shallow, transverse depressions, each separated by a narrow septum.

Phenology

The type was at full anthesis in late Jan.

Habitat

Grows on a broken sandstone slope adjacent to a low basaltic hill, in open shrubland over dense *Triodia* spp. ground cover.

Specimens

W.A. [precise locality withheld for conservation reasons], 27 Jan. 2010, *R.L.Barrett RLB 6527*; *holo*: PERTH; *iso*: CANB, DNA, K, MEL, NSW, PERTH.

Notes

Most closely related to *A. kenneallyi* despite its superficially dissimilar appearance; see B.R.Maslin, M.D.Barrett & R.L.Barrett, *Nuytsia* 23: 572 (2013), for discussion. *Acacia kenneallyi* is easily distinguished by its pruinose branchlets, much larger, narrowly elliptic phyllodes, often racemose or paniculate inflorescences with more numerous-flowered heads and longer pods with obliquely arranged seeds. Phyllodes superficially similar to those of the arid zone species *A. jensenii* and some forms of *A. melleodora* but the relationship is seemingly not close. The latter two species are resinous shrubs with a small gland at their phyllode apices, $\frac{3}{4}$ -united sepals which, together with the petals, are glabrous.

Conservation

Acacia orthotropica is listed as Priority Two under Department of Parks and Wildlife Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora.

FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

Author

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



Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy



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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