

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia oxycedrus* Sieber ex DC.



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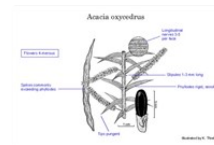
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Acacia oxycedrus occurrence map.  
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

### Common Name

Spike Wattle

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Widespread in heathlands, woodlands and forests ranging from far south-eastern S.A. through southern and eastern Vic. to N.S.W. where it occurs in the Blue Mtns and N of Sydney and the far S coast.

### Description

Tree or shrub 1–10 m high, prickly, erect, spreading or contorted. Young stems commonly hispid. Stipules persistent, prominent, spine-like or setaceous, commonly rigid, 1–3 mm long. Phyllodes crowded, scattered but sometimes a few ±whorled or fasciculate, sessile, linear, lanceolate or subulate, 1–4 cm long, 1.5–4 (–6) mm wide, pungent, mostly glabrous, with 3–5 nerves; upper nerve becoming marginal towards apex of phyllode; gland absent. Inflorescences with peduncles 3–12 mm long; spikes dense, 1.5–5 cm long, commonly exceeding phyllodes; bracteoles stipitate, navicular, 0.6–1 mm long, pubescent. Flowers 4-merous; sepals united. Pods cylindrical or slightly compressed, 6–11 cm long, 3–6 (–8) mm wide, woody, longitudinally wrinkled. Seeds elliptic, 3.5–5 mm long; funicle short, thick, folded 2 or 3 times; aril turbinate.

## Phenology

Flowers June–Nov. and fruits Dec.–Feb.

## Specimens

S.A.: 1.6 km N of Wandilo Rly Siding, c. 15 km N of Mt Gambier, *I.B.Wilson 467* (AD, MEL). N.S.W.: Greenmans Valley Rd, W of Mt White, *R.Coveny 11219*, *A.Tillsley & B.Wallace* (CANB, NSW); Nadgee Nature Reserve, *N.Fisher 10* (CANB). Vic.: Hollow Mtn Ridge, Victoria Ra., The Grampians, *R.B.Filson 5265* (MEL); 3 km W of Powelltown, *D.B.Foreman 1034* (CANB, HO, MEL, NSW).

## Notes

Differs from *A. verticillata* by its prominent and persistent stipules and its much larger plurinerved phyllodes. Also, unlike *A. verticillata* the phyllodes of *A. oxycedrus* are not clearly fasciculate or whorled.

All of these presumed hybrids can be distinguished easily from *A. oxycedrus* by the length of their phyllodes which exceed 4.5 cm and from their supposed parents by their phyllodes gradually tapering into hard sharp and rigid points and often, also, by the presence of obvious and persistent stipules.

*Acacia longifolia* subsp. *longifolia* is thought also to hybridise with *A. oxycedrus* and material derived from these supposed parents has been recorded from the Heatherton and Clayton districts, south-east of Melbourne. Similar material with the same putative parents has been recorded from the Patonga area, S of Gosford in N.S.W. There is evidence, also, that *A. floribunda* hybridises with *A. oxycedrus* and specimens apparently referable to a hybrid between these parents has been recorded from Brooklyn on the Hawkesbury R., N of Sydney.

Apparently *A. oxycedrus* also hybridises with *A. mucronata* subsp. *longifolia* and indeed H.Williamson (*Victorian Naturalist* 46: 200 (1930)) described *A. mucronata* var. *acuta* from specimens which appear intermediate between these two presumptive parents. These specimens were gathered near Halls Gap in The Grampians and near Warburton in central Vic. Similar material has also been recorded from the Plenty Ranges, N of Melbourne, Cockatoo, E of Melbourne and Mt Observation near Marysville also in central Vic.

*Acacia oxycedrus* appears to be related also to the '*A. longifolia* group' as evidenced by its hybridising readily with several closely related species in that group. Putative hybrids with *A. longifolia* subsp. *sophorae* as the second parent have been recorded from The Lookout near Woy Woy, N of Sydney in N.S.W., between Nelson and Kentbrook in far south-western Vic. and also from Sperm Whale Head, S of Bairnsdale on the Vic. coast.

## 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:



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