

# WATTLE

## Acacias of Australia

### *Acacia pachyacra* Maiden & Blakely



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Image courtesy of Northern Territory Herbarium



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See illustration.



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

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Occurs in the western part of the arid zone from Mt Farquhar, W.A., to the Docker R. area, N.T., and the Birksgate and Musgrave Ra., S.A.

### Description

**Shrub** or **tree** 1–5 m high, often bushy with a casuarina-like appearance. Branches frequently red-brown. **Branchlets** slender, sometimes faintly (rarely markedly) **pruinose**, **glabrous**. Phyllodes **ascending** to **erect**, **filiform**, **straight** to shallowly **curved**, **quadrangular** to  $\pm$ **terete**, rarely flat, 8–20 cm long, 0.5–1 mm wide, with a **curved mucro** with a **gland** at its base, not **rigid**, slightly longitudinally wrinkled or grooved when dry, light green to grey-green, **glabrous**, 4-nerved; glands basal, and at base of **mucro**. Inflorescences **racemose**; **raceme axes** 1–3 cm long, slender, **glabrous**; peduncles 4–7 mm long, slender, **glabrous**; heads **globular**, 20–30-flowered, light golden to mid-golden. Flowers 5-merous; sepals free, **linear-spathulate**. Pods **narrowly oblong**, prominently **rounded** over seeds, to 8 cm long, 7–11 mm wide, **chartaceous**, light brown, **glabrous**. Seeds transverse to **oblique**, **oblong** to widely **ovate-elliptic** or **orbicular**, 4.5–5.5 mm long, shallowly **depressed** at centre, dull, black, **exarillate**.

### Phenology

Flowers Aug.–Oct.

### Habitat

Grows in sand in spinifex country. *Acacia pachyacra* is a disturbance opportunist and responds particularly well after fire.

### Specimens

W.A.: near Mt Farquhar, *J.V.Blockley 437* (PERTH); Gibson Desert, 110 km by road S of Warburton towards Rawlinna, *B.R.Maslin 5682* (MO, PERTH). N.T.: 51 km E of Docker R., *N.Henry 301* (PERTH). S.A.: 11 km S of Mt Davies camp, Tomkinson Ranges, *J.R.Maconochie 817* (AD, K, PERTH).

### Notes

The seed is eaten by Aborigines, *vide* P.Latz, *Bushfires & Bushtucker* 112 (1995).

A member of the '*A. murrayana* group' with phyllodes very similar to those of *A. subrigida*. Perhaps *A. pachyacra* would be better regarded as a subspecies of *A. murrayana* from which it is (rather arbitrarily) distinguished by its narrower phyllodes which are normally quadrangular to  $\pm$ terete. A few specimens from far north western S.A. and adjacent N.T. with  $\pm$ flat phyllodes 1–1.5 mm wide seem intermediate between the two species, e.g. 51.5 km E of Docker R. Settlement, *C.Dunlop 1968* (PERTH). Typical representatives of both species also occur within this region. May superficially resemble *A. tenuissima* but the two are not at all closely related; *A. tenuissima* has finely multinerved phyllodes, spicate inflorescences and much narrower pods.

*Acacia pachyacra* has the ability to resprout advantageously from the base of the stem after mechanical disturbance and after a mild. This species would make a showy ornamental for inland gardens.

### FOA Reference

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

**Author**

Minor edits by B.R.Maslin

B.R.Maslin

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



URL: <https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/wattle>  
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