

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia parvipinnula* Tindale



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See illustration.



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See illustration.



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

### Common Name

Silver-stemmed Wattle

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Occurs in N.S.W. from Hunter R. Valley to S of Goulburn, the coast, tablelands and western slopes as far W as Goulburn R., common in Howes Valley–Colo region and lower slopes of Blue Mtns.

### Description

**Shrub** or **tree** 2–10 m high. Bark smooth, very silvery or blue-grey. **Branchlets terete** or angled, with short, rather stiff, somewhat spreading, tawny, white or grey hairs, later  $\pm$  **glabrous**, dark brown, often **pruinose**. Young foliage-tips white or yellow, **velvety-pubescent**. Leaves **herbaceous** to subcoriaceous, dark green; **petiole** above **pulvinus** mostly 0.5–1.7 cm long, flattened vertically, with (1–) 2–4 (–6) **oblong** or spherical, **puberulous** glands; **rachis** 1.5–8 cm long,  $\pm$  flattened vertically, usually with a **gland** at base of all or most pairs of **pinnae**, sometimes absent, 1–3 **oblong** or spherical often **contiguous interjugary** glands between pairs of **pinnae**; **pinnae** 4–13 pairs, 1–5 cm long; pinnules 13–42 pairs, **narrowly oblong** to **cultrate**, 2–4 (–5.5) mm long, 0.5–1 mm wide, margin and often lower surface with sparse **appressed** to spreading white hairs,  $\pm$  **glabrous** above, **obtuse**. Inflorescences in **axillary** racemes, or terminal or **axillary** false-panicles; peduncles 2–5 mm long, mostly hairy. Heads 14–20-flowered, pale yellow; flower buds spreading. Pods slightly and often irregularly more deeply constricted between seeds, 2–17 cm long, 5–9 (–11) mm wide, **coriaceous**, bluish brown or bluish black, **glabrous** or with minute **appressed** hairs.

### Phenology

Flowers Sept.–early Dec., sometimes also Apr.–July; fruits mainly Sept.–Jan., Mar.

### Habitat

Grows in open forest, on plateaux or alluvial flats, on shale, laterite or sandstone.

### Specimens

N.S.W.: Darkey Ck, 8 miles [12.8 km] SW of Bulga, *R.Coveny 4615* (A, B, BRI, BRUX, K, LE, NSW, PERTH, RSA, UC); Menai, *G.D'Aubert 414* (MEL, NSW); Broken Back Ra., Hunter Valley, *A.V.Slee 2326* (CANB, NSW); 2 miles [3.2 km] E of Kurri Kurri, *M.D.Tindale s.n.* (NSW64666); Maroota, *M.D.Tindale s.n.* (NSW52274).

### Notes

*Acacia parvipinnula* is closely allied to *A. filicifolia*, although the latter is characterised by much broader, bluish, unconstricted pods, usually 23–68 pairs of pinnules, and the flowering time is earlier, i.e. late July to Sept., rarely extending into Oct. On the Colo R. flats where both species are common, *A. filicifolia* has completed flowering before the trees of *A. parvipinnula* are in flower, this being an important factor in preventing hybridisation. In the northern part of its range, i.e. near Cessnock, the latter species flowers earlier than at Colo Heights and Blaxland, where the principal flowering time is Nov.

*Acacia parvipinnula* may be confused with *A. parramattensis* which has non-pruinose branchlets and a greater number of flowers per head (20–50-flowered), *A. irrorata* *subsp. irrorata* which has scabrous ridges on the branchlets, and *A. irrorata* *subsp. velutinella* which has crisped hairs on the ridges and occurs further to the

north of the distribution of *A. parvipinnula*.

### 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 & J.Reid

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



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Biological  
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Study



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