

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

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



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

Common Name

King Edward River Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in the northern Kimberley region of W.A. where it is known only from along the King Edward R. on Theda Stn, c. 30 km SW of Kalumburu.

Description

Spindly, **erect**, **glabrous shrub** to 2 m tall. **Branchlets** resin-ribbed. **Stipules** **persistent**, 1–2 mm long. Phyllodes widely **obovate**, **dimidiate** with upper margin prominently **rounded** and lower margin \pm **straight**, 3–4 mm long (excluding **mucro**), 2–4 mm wide, mostly **ascending** to **erect**, apices excentrically **mucronate** with the often bristle-like, **subulate mucro** 0.5–1.5 mm long and **straight** to shallowly **incurved**; **longitudinal** nerves numerous, often indistinct, none **anastomosing**. Peduncles 4–12 mm long, **resinous**; heads **globular**, c. 15-flowered, the relatively large buds wide-spreading and narrowed towards their apices. **Bracteole** laminae **triangular-trullate**, light brown and distinctly **acuminate**. Flowers 5-**merous**; **calyx** 1/4–1/3 length of **corolla**, very shortly dissected into **triangular** lobes; petals 1-nerved. Pods **linear**, **depressed-quadrangular** in section when young, neither raised over nor constricted between the seeds, 3–7.5 cm long, 2–3 mm wide, \pm thinly **crustaceous** to slightly **coriaceous**, opening elastically from apex, the dehiscent valves **recurved**. Seeds **longitudinal**, seated in distinct chambers each separated by a narrow septum, **obloid**, c. 4 x 2 mm; **funicle-aril** conical, c. 2 mm long, **straight**, cream-coloured.

Phenology

The paucity of collections makes it difficult to determine the phenology; flowers collected May–July with the May specimen also possessing mature pods.

Habitat

Grows in shallow soil among sandstone outcrops along watercourse in association with *Sorghum* sp. and *Heteropogon contortus*.

Specimens

W.A.: [localities withheld for conservation reasons] *R.Maher s.n.* (G, MEL, NSW, NY, PERTH 08427771 & 08428867).

Notes

A member of the '*A. stigmatophylla* group' seemingly closest to *A. setulifera* which is most readily distinguished by its phyllodes that are patent, ovate to elliptic, not markedly asymmetric and very indistinctly nerved; it also has broader pods and normally more numerous-flowered heads; see B.R.Maslin, M.D.Barrett & R.L.Barrett, *Nuytsia* 23: 574–575 (2013) for further discussion. Seemingly also close to *A. anserina* (which has hairy branchlets and phyllodes) and superficially similar to *A. barrettiorum* (which has broad-based, sessile, symmetrically oblong phyllodes).

The wide-spreading, tapered flower buds that impart a star-like appearance to the unopened heads of *A. perpusilla* and *A. anserina* are similar to those of *A. stellaticeps*, another member of the '*A. stigmatophylla* group', but which has larger phyllodes with a small, thickened, erect, knob-like apical point.

Conservation

Acacia perpusilla is listed Priority One 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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