

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

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



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

Common Name

Kimberley Cluster-Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in the NW Kimberley region of northern W.A. where it is known from a few populations 100 km apart, from the Sale R., Edkins Ra., Mt Daglish and Synnot Ra.

Description

Spreading, straggly **shrub** 0.4–1 (–1.5) m tall. **Branchlets** slender, **terete**, ±densely **pubescent** to **pilose**. Phyllodes in clusters of (2–) 3–5 (–8) at mature nodes, single on new shoots, commonly **narrowly oblong-oblongeolate**, shallowly **incurved** to **straight** or shallowly **sigmoid**, flat, mostly 6–10 mm long, 0.7–1.3 mm wide, excentrically **mucronate**, **rostellate** or **uncinate**, ±sparsely **pubescent**; nerves normally not discernible; **gland** single, 1–2 mm above the **pulvinus**. Spikes **obloid** to short-**cylindrical**; peduncles (3–) 4–8 mm long, short-**pilose**. Bracteoles **exserted** in young buds, the laminae **acuminate**. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ length of petals, free, **linear**, apically sparsely short-**pilose**. Pods **linear**, ±**straight**, flat but abruptly **deflexed** at rim to form a perpendicular, narrow, flattened outer edge, **quadrangular** in section when narrow, 3–8 cm long, 2–4 mm wide, firmly **crustaceous**, red-brown, longitudinally **striate**, opening elastically from apex with dehiscent valves **recurved**. Seeds **oblique**, seated in distinct chambers, 4–4.5 mm long, dark brown to greyish brown except **pleurogram** bordered by dull cream tissue; **areole** elongated 'u'-shaped; **aril** conical, 1–2.5 mm long, dull cream (when dry).

Phenology

Flowers from Dec.–Jan. and May.–Oct.; few pods with mature seeds normally present on flowering plants.

Habitat

Grows in sparse very open low woodland on shallow sand over and between sandstone ridges.

Specimens

W.A. [localities withheld for conservation reasons] *R.L. & M.D.Barrett RLB 4000* (MEL, NSW, PERTH); *D.G.Edinger 957* (AD, BRI, CANB, DNA, K, MEL, NSW, NY, PERTH).

Notes

Related to *A. conjunctifolia* which is most readily distinguished in being a resinous, glabrous species with strongly ribbed branchlets and longer phyllodes that have an evident midrib and non-uncinate apices; it also has generally wider phyllodes, longer spikes and wider pods. Perhaps also related to *A. amentifera*, a glabrous N.T. species known only from its type, which is further distinguished by its rather prominently ribbed branchlets and ±sessile spikes.

Conservation

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

FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

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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