

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia platycarpa F. Muell.



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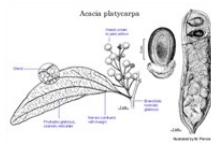
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Acacia platycarpa occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Ghost Wattle, Pindan Wattle, White-barked Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs widely across northern Australia, W.A. through N.T. to Qld; in Qld extending S to Blackall.

Description

Shrub or tree 2–6 (–10) m high. Bark rough, grey to red-brown; upper branches normally pruinose. Branchlets terete, normally glabrous. Phyllodes inequilaterally elliptic, falcate, (5.2–) 9–19 cm long, (1–) 2.5–6.7 cm wide, obtuse, coriaceous, glabrous, with 3 or 4 distant main nerves (some confluent with lower margin near base), coarsely reticulate; gland basal, with 1–3 additional glands in notches along upper margin. Inflorescences in axillary racemes or terminal panicles; raceme axes 4–25 cm long; peduncles 7–15 mm long, to 25 mm long in fruit, in fascicles of 2–5, glabrous; heads globular, 5–6.5 mm diam., 31–41-flowered, creamy white to pale yellow. Flowers 5-merous; sepals ±free to 3/4-united. Pods flat, to 20 cm long, 1.8–3.5 cm wide, coriaceous to subwoody, reticulate, glabrous; margins narrowly winged. Seeds transverse, ±broadly elliptic, 9–11 mm long, dull, grey-brown to brown; aril large.

Habitat

Grows in sand, mostly over sandstone or laterite, in open forest, woodland and shrubland.

Specimens

W.A.: Inglis Gap, King Leopold Ra., *J.R.Maconochie 1189* (NSW, PERTH); Mertens Falls, c. 15 km E of Mitchell R., *B.R.Maslin 5123* (BRI, PERTH). N.T.: c. 6.4 km SE of Katherine on Stuart Hwy, *L.G.Adams 829* (PERTH); Caiman Ck, *N.Byrnes 1068* & *J.R.Maconochie* (PERTH). Qld: 22.5 km E of Prairie Township, *M.Lazarides 4547* (NSW, PERTH).

Notes

Some specimens from the Great Sandy Desert region of W.A. are atypical in various ways: (1) *I.J.Bull 55 & 56* (both PERTH) have phyllodes that are scarcely dimidiate, elliptic to obovate, straight and 6–7 cm long; (2) *A.S.George 15568* (CANB, DNA, PERTH) has hirtellous branchlets.

Related to *A. convallium*, *A. dunnii*, *A. tolmerensis* and to *A. sericata*. Similar to *A. leptoloba*.

The collection, *K.F.Kenneally 11201*, PERTH (in flower) from the Hunter R., Kimberley region, probably represents an undescribed species. It has the general facies of *A. platycarpa* but is most readily distinguished by its 2-nerved phyllodes which are 1–2 cm wide, thinly coriaceous and (along with the branchlets) sparsely appressed-puberulous.

Erroneously synonymised with the closely related *A. sericata* by G.Bentham, *Fl. Austral.* 2: 391 (1864).

FOA Reference

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

Author

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Minor edits by B.R.Maslin & J.Rogers

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



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Australian
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Study



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