

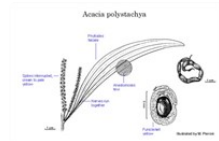
WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia polystachya A.Cunn. ex Benth.



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.
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B.R. Maslin



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See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Ranges from Banks Is., Torres Strait, S on Cape York along the coast to 17°S; also recorded from Palm Is.

Description

Tree 3–25 m high. Bark smooth to corrugated or coarsely plaited, grey or dark brown. **Branchlets** angular or ±flattened, grey, brown or purplish, smooth or **pustulate**. Phyllodes very narrowly **elliptic** to narrowly **elliptic**, sometimes asymmetrical, ±**straight** to **falcate**, (7.5–) 9–17 (–25.5) cm long, 10–32 (–40) mm wide, ±**chartaceous**, **glabrous**, multistriate with 2 or 3 (rarely 4) more prominent nerves which often run together and join some distance above **phyllode** base and remain separate from lower margin; minor nerves 5–9 per mm, sparingly **anastomosing**; **gland** 1, basal, to 3 mm above **pulvinus**. Spikes 3.5–7.5 cm long, loosely arranged, pale yellow. Flowers **5-merous**; **calyx** 0.4–0.7 mm long, dissected to 1/2, **glabrous**; **corolla** 1.6–1.8 mm long, dissected to 1/2, **glabrous**; **ovary** densely **pubescent**. Pods ±**straight**-sided to slightly and often irregularly more deeply constricted between seeds, **curved** to strongly **curved**, openly **coiled** or irregularly twisted, 8.5–13 cm long, 6–10 mm wide, thinly **coriaceous**, blackish, often **pruinose**, **glabrous**. Seeds **longitudinal**, ±**discooid**, 3.5–4.2 mm long, black, minutely pitted; **pleurogram** without halo; **areole** elongate, open; **funicle** encircling seed, yellow.

Phenology

Flowers Apr.–July.

Habitat

Grows in alluvial soils often near watercourses in semideciduous mesophyll vine thicket and deciduous vine thicket or along beaches.

Specimens

Qld: 106 km by road NNW of Coen along the Kennedy road, *R.G.Coveny 7079* & *P.D.Hind* (A, BRI, CANB, K, L, MEL, TL, US); 5 miles [8 km] from Mossman towards Cairns, *C.H.Gittins 1885* (NSW); Fall Ck; Pascoe R., *P.Hind 1057* & *C.K.Ingram* (CANB, MEL, NSW); Yorkeys Knob Beach, Cairns, *H.S.McKee 9489* (NSW); Coen, Apr. 1922, *N.B.Tindale* (NSW).

Notes

One of the specimens cited in the protologue collected by Armstrong at Port Essington is *A. leptocarpa*. *Acacia polystachya* putatively hybridizes with both *A. leptocarpa* and *A. nesophila* in northeast Qld. Although this species is not closely related to *A. auriculiformis*, it is difficult to distinguish if pods are unavailable; it is sometimes sympatric with, and superficially resembles, *A. midgleyi*.

Details of ecology, utilisation etc. are given in J.W.Turnbull (ed.), *Multipurpose Austral. Trees & Shrubs* 186 (1986).

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.Rogers

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



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