

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia prainii Maiden



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See illustration.



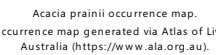
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Acacia prainii occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Prain's Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Scattered in arid and semi-arid areas from Morawa and Holt Rock, W.A., E to Lake Amadeus, N.T., and Lake Everard, S.A.

Description

Bushy **glabrous shrub** or **tree** 1.5–3 m high, sometimes 5 m. **Branchlets** angled at extremities, sometimes **viscid** especially on the fine yellow ribs. Phyllodes **ascending** to **erect**, usually **linear**, occasionally **filiform**, flat to **quadrangular**, 2–11 cm long, 0.5–3 (–5) mm wide, commonly **pungent**, smooth, normally subglaucous to **glaucous**; **midrib** and marginal nerves prominent, yellowish and sometimes **viscid**; **lateral** nerves absent; **gland** 2–20 mm above **pulvinus**, and sometimes also 3–20 mm below apex. Inflorescences 3–7-headed racemes; **raceme axes** 3–15 mm long, enclosed when young by **imbricate** brown bracts; peduncles 4–11 mm long, slender; heads showy, **globular**, 10–24-flowered, light golden; bracteoles absent. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals free. Pods **rounded** over seeds, often **curved**, to 8.5 cm long, 5–7 mm wide, firmly **chartaceous**. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong-elliptic** to **ovate**, 3.5–6 mm long, slightly shiny, black, **exarillate**.

Habitat

Grows in sand or sandy clay in open scrub, mallee communities, *Eucalyptus* woodland or spinifex country.

Specimens

W.A.: Warrachuppin Rock, E of Bencubbin, *C.A.Gardner 2774* (K, PERTH); 14 km N of Docker R. turnoff from Giles–Mulga Park Rd, *A.S.George 12050* (PERTH, TLF); 12 km E of Coolgardie on Great Eastern Hwy, *B.R.Maslin 1885* (MEL, NSW, PERTH). N.T.: Lake Neale and Lake Amadeus area, *J.R.Maconochie 1899* (K, PERTH). S.A.: 5 km NE of Maralinga village, *L.D.Williams 9423B* (PERTH).

Notes

Acacia prainii together with *A. anthochaera*, *A. camptoclada*, *A. dorsenna* and *A. hemiteles* comprise the informal 'A. prainii group', *vide* B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 10: 193 (1995). These are all glabrous plants with short racemes that are enclosed, when young, by scarious brown bracts, free sepals, no bracteoles, generally chartaceous pods and exarillate funicles. Members of this group are most readily distinguished by their phyllode shape and size. *Acacia prainii* is sometimes sympatric with *A.*

anthochaera.

Phyllodes are variable in shape and size and future studies may show that infraspecific taxa should be recognised to accommodate this variation. In south-western W.A. the phyllodes are frequently 2–5 cm long (includes the type of *A. prainii*) but further E in the arid zone they may reach 11 cm (includes the type of *A. prolifera*). Some specimens from the Coolgardie–Widgiemoorltha area, W.A., have filiform, quadrangular phyllodes less than 1 mm wide: these were described as *A. prainii* var. *linearis* (see Fig. 43Q). A few specimens have narrowly oblong, atypically broad phyllodes, to 5 mm wide and as such approach those of *A. hemiteles* (e.g. 4.1 km N of Holt Rock, *B.R.Maslin* 3937, K, PERTH). These two species possibly hybridise near Burracoppin.

FOA Reference

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

Author

Minor edits by J.Rogers

B.R.Maslin

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



Australian Government
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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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