

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia pravifolia F. Muell.



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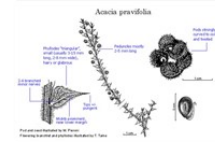
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Acacia pravifolia occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Coiled-pod Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Distribution discontinuous. Occurs in the Flinders Ra. and Lofty Ra., S.A.; from Angepena S to near Burra, between Cobar, Narrabri and Temora, N.S.W.; in south-eastern Qld in the Tara–Warwick area, with a variant occurring between Jericho and Blackall (see note below); and in W.A. from Israelite Bay W to Boxwood Hill and N to near Wubin.

Description

Intricate shrub 0.5–2 m high. Branchlets rigid, sometimes coarsely pungent, hairy. Phyllodes sessile, inequilateral, with markedly rounded adaxial margin, shape variable but frequently obtriangular to obdeltate, broadest above or below middle, usually 3–15 mm long, 2–8 mm wide, l:w = 1–2, ±pungent by a short slender sometimes recurved mucro, glabrous or hairy, with midrib prominent and near abaxial margin, with 2–4 branched minor nerves running into adaxial margin; gland 0.5–2.5 mm above base. Inflorescences 1-headed rudimentary racemes with axes c. 0.5 mm long; peduncles usually 2–5 mm long, glabrous, sometimes subglabrous; basal bracts persistent; heads globular, normally 7–15-flowered, golden; bracteoles subsessile, concave, ±obtuse, brown. Flowers 5-merous; sepals 1/2–3/4-united. Pods strongly curved to rather tightly coiled and irregularly twisted, usually 5 mm wide, glabrous or hirsutellous to shortly pilose. Seeds longitudinal, oblong to elliptic, usually 3–4.5 mm long; aril 1/2–2/3 length of seed.

Habitat

Grows in woodland or shrubland, often in shallow rocky soil.

Specimens

W.A.: Fitzgerald R. Natl Park, *B.R.Maslin 3887* (CANB, K, MEL, PERTH). S.A.: road to Bundaleer in Northern Lofty Region, *R.Bates 798* (AD, HO); Laura to Hugh's Gap road, c. 6 km W of Gladstone, *B.Copley 3070* (AD, PERTH). Qld: Karara, *G.Ward 332* (K). N.S.W.: 32°15'S, 148°37'E [near Dubbo], *J.L.Boorman* (NSW108261).

Notes

Sometimes superficially similar to *A. hubbardiana* and Variant 2 of *A. maitlandii*.

Until recently this name had been wrongly regarded as a synonym of the northern Australian species *A. sublanata*, *fide* A.B.Court, *Muelleria* 2: 159 (1972) and L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 224 (1978).

Acacia pravifolia, together with five close relatives, *A. amblygona*, *A. flabellifolia*, *A. lanceolata*, *A. scalena* and *A. sphenophylla*, constitute the '*A. pravifolia* group'. These species have small, ±pungent, inequilateral phyllodes with a few minor nerves parallel or subparallel to the midrib (which is commonly situated near the abaxial margin) and running into the adaxial margin. Their inflorescences are extremely reduced, 1-headed racemes (raceme axis to c. 0.5 mm long and subtended by two small bracts) with the peduncles subtended by usually 2, partially fused, brown bracts which are longer than the raceme bracts, the bracteoles are broad, concave, ±sessile and ±obtuse. This group has a very discontinuous distribution throughout Australia. Inflorescence morphology of *A. retrorsa* suggests affinities to the '*A. pravifolia* group'.

Specimens with unusually long peduncles (8–10 mm) occur between Jericho and Blackall, Qld, and in the Pilliga State Forest, N.S.W. (e.g. *R.S.Dick*, BRI248917; *J.H.Dalby* 86/118, NSW, PERTH). Specimens from Flagstone Ck, Qld, cited and illustrated as *A. pravifolia* by B.A.Lebler, *Wildfl. SE Queensland* 2: 65 (1981), are *A. amblygona* (e.g. *M.Olsen & B.A.Lebler*, BRI253477).

Despite their unusual vegetative characters, *A. continua* and *A. spinescens* appear to be related to this group as well. These two species, together with *A. amblygona*, constituted subsect. *Parviscutellae* of Vassal's sect. *Pulchelloidea*, *fide* J.Vassal, *Bull. Soc. Hist. Nat. Toulouse* 108: 105-247 (1972). Similarly, *A. woodmaniorum* is probably very close to the '*A. pravifolia* group', despite its highly unusual phyllodes.

A somewhat variable species, especially with respect to indumentum and phyllode shape. The branchlets are hirsutellous to puberulous or shortly pilose and, when present, the phyllode indumentum is similar but sparser.

The W.A. specimens require further investigation. They have consistently short peduncles (1–3 mm long) and many have exceptionally small phyllodes (2–4 mm long) which often resemble those of *A. ericksoniae*; the few pods seen are glabrous, 3 mm wide with seeds 2–2.5 mm long. Specimens from inland areas have spinescent branchlets.

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 B.R.Maslin & J.Rogers

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



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