

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia pubescens* (Vent.) R.Br.



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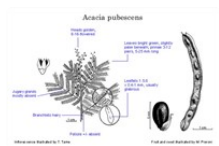
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See illustration.



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See illustration.



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

### Common Name

Downy Wattle, Hairy-stemmed Wattle

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Endemic to N.S.W. on the lower Blue Mtns in the Bilpin district, and on the Cumberland Plain from Pitt Town S to George's R.

### Description

Spreading to slightly weeping **shrub** 1–5 m high. Bark smooth, brownish grey. **Branchlets**  $\pm$ terete with low ridges, dark brown or dark red-brown,  $\pm$ villous. Young foliage-tips silvery or yellowish white, **villous**. Leaves **herbaceous**, bright green above, paler beneath, subsessile with basal **pinnae** arising  $\pm$ immediately or rarely to 0.7 mm above **pulvinus**, sometimes with a **gland** at basal **pinnae**; **rachis** 1.5–6.6 cm long, ridged,  $\pm$ villous, mostly eglandular, sometimes with a spherical or **ellipsoid** pale brown or blackish **gland** at base of terminal **pinnae** or rarely 2–6 upper **pinnae**; rarely **interjугary** glands present; **pinnae** 3–12 pairs, 0.5–2.5 cm long, basal pairs shorter than others; pinnules 5–20 pairs, **cultrate** to  $\pm$ oblong, 1.5–5 mm long, 0.4–1 mm wide, 1-nerved, **glabrous**, **acute** or subacute. Inflorescences in **axillary** racemes or terminal false-panicles; peduncles 3–9 mm long, normally **glabrous**. Heads 8–16-flowered, golden. Pods 1.5–8 cm long, 4–6.5 mm wide, subcoriaceous, bluish, bluish brown or almost black,  $\pm$ pruinose, **glabrous**.

### Phenology

Flowers Aug.–Oct.; fruits Oct.–Jan.

### Habitat

Grows in open forest or woodland, scrub-woodland and in *Melaleuca* scrub, in gravelly clay or sandy soils, often on Wianamatta Shale.

### Specimens

N.S.W.: Mountain Lagoon, *C.Dunn 25 & R.G.Coverly* (B, BM, CHR, MO, PERTH, TL, UC, US, Z); Wetherill Park, W of Smithfield, *O.D.Evans* (NSW60631); Long Neck Lagoon Nature Reserve, *D.Fortescue 1011 & J.Benson* (B, MO, NSW, PERTH); 1.6 km N of Pitt Town, *M.D.Tindale s.n.* (NSW53064); Chester Hill, *M.D.Tindale s.n.* (NSW8114).

### Notes

May be confused with *A. cardiophylla* which has cordate, concolorous and hispidulous pinnules. Hybridises with *A. baileyana*, *A. cardiophylla* and other species.

*Acacia pubescens* was one of the first Australian acacias cultivated in Europe, being grown at Malmaison near Paris in the garden of the Empress Josephine. This is a rare and endangered species since much of its original habitat in western Sydney has been destroyed for housing.

### 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.Reid & J.Rogers

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



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Resources  
Study**



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