

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia pycnantha* Benth.



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (a.10047).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 1982



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (a.31267).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 1989



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (a.31268).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 2000



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (a.31271).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 2002



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (a.31273).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 2002



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (a.31275).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 2002



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (dig.21343).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 2011



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (dig.22149).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 2011



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (dig.38269).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 2015



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (dig.39138).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 2015



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.  
Published at: [www.worldwidewattle.com](http://www.worldwidewattle.com)  
B.R. Maslin



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.  
Published at: [www.worldwidewattle.com](http://www.worldwidewattle.com)  
B.R. Maslin



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.  
Published at: [www.worldwidewattle.com](http://www.worldwidewattle.com)  
B.R. Maslin



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (dig.39550).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 2015



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (a.19343).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 1986



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (a.31277).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 1986



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (a.31278).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 2002



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (a.31281).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 1983



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (a.3427).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 1978



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (dig.22151).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 2011



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (dig.22152).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 2011



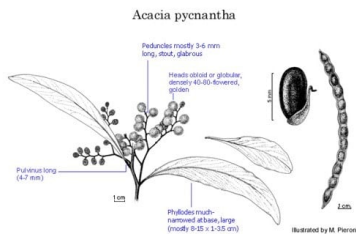
Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.  
Published at: [www.worldwidewattle.com](http://www.worldwidewattle.com)  
B.R. Maslin



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (dig.24993).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 2011



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.  
Published at: [www.worldwidewattle.com](http://www.worldwidewattle.com)  
B.R. Maslin



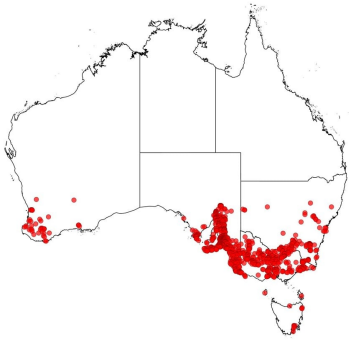
Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.  
Published at: [www.worldwidewattle.com](http://www.worldwidewattle.com)  
See illustration.



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.  
Published at: [www.worldwidewattle.com](http://www.worldwidewattle.com)  
See illustration.



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.  
Published at: [www.worldwidewattle.com](http://www.worldwidewattle.com)  
See illustration.



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

## Common Name

Golden Wattle, Broad-leaved Wattle

## Family

Fabaceae

## Distribution

Widespread and often locally common in Vic., extending W to the Flinders Ra., Yorke Peninsula, southern Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Is., S.A.; isolated occurrences in southern N.S.W. and also from the Broken Hill area; near Canberra in the A.C.T. Naturalised in south-western W.A. and eastern Tas.; regarded as a weed species in parts of South Africa.

## Description

Shrub or tree usually 3–8 m high. Branchlets sometimes pruinose, glabrous. Phyllodes often pendulous, falcately recurved to oblanceolate, pulvinus 4–7 mm long, much-narrowed at base, 8–15 (–22.5) cm long, (4–) 10–35 (–52) mm wide, obtuse to acute, coriaceous, glabrous, with prominent midrib, penninerved; gland often slightly exerted, sometimes 2, with the lowermost 3–45 mm above pulvinus. Inflorescences racemose; raceme axes mostly 2–9 cm long, stout, glabrous; peduncles (2–) 3–6 mm long, stout, glabrous; heads showy, globular to obovoid, densely 40–80-flowered, bright golden, sometimes lemon yellow; bracteoles evident in buds; laminae subcircular, < 0.5 mm diam., dark brown to blackish, white-fimbriolate. Flowers 5-merous; sepals united. Pods linear, 5–13 cm long, 5–7 (–8) mm wide, firmly chartaceous to thinly coriaceous, glabrous. Seeds longitudinal, ±oblong, 5.5–6 mm long, somewhat shiny, black; aril clavate.

## Habitat

Grows in sand or loam, in *Eucalyptus* forest or woodland, open scrub and heath.

## Specimens

S.A.: Burra Ck gorge, 3 km W of Worlds End, *B.R.Maslin 5993* (AD, PERTH); Alligator Ck, c. 45 km SE of Port Augusta, *R.Hill 1027* (AD). N.S.W.: 8.7 km ENE of Bredbo on the Jerangle road, *R.Coveny 5449* (MEL, NSW). A.C.T.: Mt Ainslie, Canberra, *M.Gray 6437* (CANB, NSW). Vic.: between Benalla and Glenrowan, *N.Hall H79/99* (MEL, NSW, PERTH).

## Notes

*Acacia pycnantha* is the official floral emblem of Australia.

A fast growing, rather short-lived, somewhat frost-sensitive species which is widely planted as an ornamental, especially on account of its profusion of strongly perfumed, golden flower-heads. A pendulous variant and a pale-headed variant are known in cultivation, *fide* W.R.Elliot & D.L.Jones, *Encycl. Austral. Pl.* 2: 103 (1982). The species is an environmental weed in South Africa, *fide* C.H.Stirton (1978), *Plant Invaders* 56-59 (Dept. Nature & Environmental Conservation, Cape Town). Further information on the biological and ecological features, and the utilisation potential, of this species is given in B.R.Maslin and M.W.McDonald, *AcaciaSearch: Evaluation of Acacia as a woody crop option for southern Australia*, RIRDC Publication No. 03/017, 160-165 (2004).

A somewhat variable species. It is normally a tall shrub or tree, but small, spindly forms which flower when 0.5-1 m high sometimes occur (e.g. some plants in the Bendigo 'Whipstick' forest, Vic.). Plants with pruinose branches are scattered throughout the range (e.g. the most northerly populations in S.A.). L.F.Costermans, *Native Trees & Shrubs SE Australia* 317 (1981), records two forms for Vic., namely, plants from open forests with dark green shiny phyllodes and golden flower-heads, and plants from mallee areas with paler, dull, narrower phyllodes and paler coloured flower-heads.

Putative natural hybrids between *A. pycnantha* and *A. williamsonii* occur in the Bendigo 'Whipstick', Vic. (e.g. *B.R.Maslin 5852*, MEL, PERTH). These hybrids superficially resemble *A. hakeoides*. Other putative hybrids of cultivated origin involving *A. podalyriifolia* are noted under *A. podalyriifolia*.

Sometimes confused with *A. obliquinervia*, *A. leiophylla* or *A. saligna*.

The bark is one of the richest sources of tannin in the world, although it is now rarely used commercially; the timber is tough and close-grained; the gum was eaten by Aborigines (see G.M.Cunningham *et al.*, *Pl. W New South Wales* 370 (1981) for references).

The allied species *A. pedina* from the South Coast of N.S.W. has dimorphic phyllodes with the adult ones generally straighter than those of *A. pycnantha*, and heads with normally fewer flowers, see P.G.Kodela & T.M.Tame, *Telopea* 8: 308 (1999) for discussion.

## 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

B.R.Maslin

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



**Australian Government**  
**Department of the Environment and Energy**



Department of  
Biodiversity, Conservation  
and Attractions  
Western Australian Herbarium



**Australian  
Biological  
Resources  
Study**



URL: <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/wattle/>  
© Copyright 2018. All rights reserved.