

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia retinervis Benth.



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Photomicrograph of PERTH specimen (B.R. Maslin)



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See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Endemic to the north-western Kimberley region of W.A. where it occurs on numerous off-shore islands, extending inland to the Mitchell Plateau and Prince Regent River region.

Description

Tree to 10 m high or shrub 2–5 m high. Bark **fissured**, grey-brown. New shoots **ferruginous** by a **dense** layer of resin hairlets that sometimes exfoliate in a platy fashion, otherwise **glabrous** or sometimes **sericeous** with silver or pale yellow hairs, sometimes both **indumentum** types on the one plant. **Branchlets terete**, light brown to reddish, **glabrous** or sometimes with **appressed** or spreading hairs. Juvenile phyllodes **dimidiate**. Adult phyllodes **falcate** to subfalcate, 7–12 (–14) cm long, (6–) 8–20 (–30) mm wide, **glabrous** or occasionally **sericeous**, with 3–5 ± prominent **longitudinal** nerves; minor obscure or sometimes prominulose, nerves **crowded**, longitudinally **anastomosing** (sometimes ± sparingly so) and forming often indistinct, clearly elongated, narrow **nerve-islands** (rarely forming a net-like **reticulum** as in *A. areolata*). Inflorescences **simple**, rarely few short-**racemose**, normally 2 per **axil**; peduncles hairy or **scurfy**; spikes 1.5–5.5 cm long, yellow. Flowers 5-**merous**; **calyx** deeply lobed, **villous**; **ovary pubescent**. Pods **linear**, tapering at each end, ± **straight**, 3–10.5 cm long, 5–8 mm wide, **sub-terete** to **compressed**, **woody**, **glabrous**, grey and longitudinally furrowed when dry. Seeds **oblique**, broadly **elliptic**, 5–6 mm long, black; **areole oblong-elliptic**, closed; **aril** cream.

Phenology

Flowers May–July.

Habitat

Most commonly associated with sandstone rock outcrops.

Specimens

W.A.: Mitchell Plateau, near camp, NW Kimberley, *J.S.Beard 8233* (PERTH); Bat Is., Sept. 1820, *A.Cunningham 291* (BM, K, NSW); unnamed tributary of the Prince Regent R., N Kimberley, *K.F.Kenneally 8904* (NSW, PERTH); Naturalist Is., in Prince Frederick Harbour, W of entrance of Hunter R., *K.F.Kenneally 9924* (BRI, PERTH); Crystal Ck, SW of Crystal Head, Admiralty Gulf, *M.McDonald 340* (PERTH).

Notes

The distinctive variant of uncertain rank from the northern Kimberley region that was noted by M.W.McDonald & P.G.Kodala, *Fl. Australia* 11B: 189 (2001) under *A. retinervis* is now described as *A. areolata*.

Acacia retinervis is a member of the '*A. tumida* group' recognized by falcate to subfalcate phyllodes possessing an elongated, close reticulum (areoles indistinct, the nerves often ± touching). The new shoots and expanding phyllodes of *A. retinervis* normally possessing a dense, ferruginous scurf (same as in *A. areolata*) but curiously on some specimens the new shoots are densely sericeous with silvery or pale yellow hairs; sometimes both indumentum types on the one plant. This sericeous indumentum is seemingly rare in *A. areolata*. *Acacia retinervis* is most closely related to *A. areolata* and *A. tumida*, *vide* M.W.McDonald, *Austral. Syst. Bot.* 16: 139–164 (2003).

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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Western Australian Herbarium



Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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