

# WATTLE

## Acacias of Australia

### *Acacia retinodes* Schlttdl.



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (a.31292).  
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B.R. Maslin



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See illustration.



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

### Common Name

Wirilda, Hills Wirilda, Silver Wattle

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Endemic to the Mount Lofty Ra. from near Mt Bryan and Clare, S to Normanville and Delamere on the southern Fleurieu Penin., S.A. Also weedy in the extreme SE of the State.

### Description

Tree to 10 m high, occasionally suckering. Bark rough, furrowed, dark brown to black. Branchlets occasionally pendulous, flattened or angular at extremities, glabrous. Phyllodes variable, crowded on stems (4–10 mm apart), oblanceolate to narrowly oblanceolate or linear, (5–) 6–16 cm long, (2–) 3–12 (–16) mm wide, acuminate, normally uncinuate, green to grey-green, not pruinose, glabrous, 1-nerved per face, obscurely penninerved; gland small, 0–3 (–7) mm above pulvinus. Inflorescences racemose; raceme axes 2–4 (–5) cm long; peduncles 3–6 mm long, slender, glabrous; heads globular, (16–) 18–30 (–34)-flowered, pale yellow to cream. Flowers 5-merous; sepals united; ovary glabrous. Pods linear, to 16 cm long, 8–11 mm wide, firmly chartaceous. Seeds longitudinal, oblong to oblong-elliptic, 4–6 mm long, dark brown to black; funicle 3/4 or more encircling seed, red-brown to blackish; aril clavate.

### Phenology

Flowers Dec.–Feb.

### Habitat

Occurs on low hills and ranges in *Eucalyptus* woodland.

### Specimens

S.A.: c. 2 km due NNE of Normanville Fleurieu Peninsula, B.R.Maslin 8355 (AD, CANB, PERTH); Mt Bryan, M.C.O'Leary 2729 (AD); Rockleigh, D.J.E.Whibley 5654 (AD).

### Notes

*Acacia retinodes* is a member of the '*Acacia microbotrya* group' most closely related to *A. provincialis* and *A. uncifolia* (see M.C.O'Leary, *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 21: 97 Table 1 (2007), for differences); it is also related to *A. confluens*, *A. leiophylla*, *A. rivalis* and *A. gillii*. B.R.Maslin in *Fl. Australia* 11A: 282 (2001) noted that *A. semiaurea* is possibly a hybrid involving *A. retinodes* and either *A. argyrophylla* or *A. dictyocarpa* (which was treated as variant 2 of *A. brachybotrya* in that publication); this can not be confirmed, see M.O'Leary, *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 21: 99 (2007), for further discussion.

Details of the breeding system are discussed in the papers of J.Kenrick & R.B.Knox, e.g. *Theor. Appl. Genet.* 69: 481–488 (1985). A widely cultivated, fast-growing but short-lived hardy species with unobtrusive flowers that occur sporadically throughout much of the year but with the main flush in spring and summer. 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, 170–174 and 182–185 (2004).

In *Fl. Australia* 11B: 144 (2001) under Doubtful Names, B.R.Maslin considered that *A. semperflorens* Jacques might possibly be referable to *A. retinodes*. While M.C.O'Leary, *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 21: 108 (2007), also regards this as a doubtful name he considers that the taxon is not referable to *A. retinodes*.

Plants from just S of Adelaide that B.R.Maslin & M.W.McDonald, *loc. cit.*, treated as the Normanville variant of *A. retinodes* are now regarded as a coastal form of the species, *vide* M.C.O'Leary, *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 21: 99 (2007).

The concept of *A. retinodes* by B.R.Maslin, *Fl. Australia* 11A: 281–283 (2001), was revised by M.C.O'Leary, *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 21: 95–109 (2007): *A. retinodes* var. *uncifolia* is now treated as a distinct species, *A. uncifolia*, while *A. retinodes* var. *retinodes* is regarded as comprising two species, *A. retinodes* (from dry sites) and *A. provincialis* (from wetter sites).

## FOA Reference

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

## Author

Revised by B.R.Maslin & M.O'Leary

B.R.Maslin

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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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