

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia rigens* A.Cunn. ex G.Don



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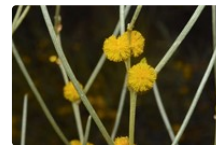
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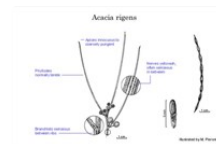
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*Acacia rigens* occurrence map.  
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

### Common Name

Needle Wattle, Nealie, Needle-bush Wattle, Nealia, Nilyah

## Family

Fabaceae

## Distribution

Mainly found from the Gawler Ra., S.A., E through north-western Vic. to near Dubbo in N.S.W., but with a few scattered occurrences in western S.A., W.A., N.T. and Qld.

## Description

Spreading **shrub** 2–3 m high; occasionally **tree** to 6 m high. **Branchlets** **sericeous** between the yellow ribs. Phyllodes **straight** to shallowly **incurved**, **terete**, rarely flat, 3–14 cm long, 0.8–1 mm diam., to 2.5 mm wide when flat, **innocuous** or  $\pm$ coarsely **pungent** with a **straight** or **curved** point, **coriaceous** to subrigid, grey-green, multistriate with often yellowish nerves (some appearing more prominent than others), **appressed-puberulous** or sometimes **glabrous** between the nerves; **gland** basal. Inflorescences **simple**, (1–) 2 (–4) per **axil**; peduncles 2–6 (–8) mm long, **appressed-puberulous**; basal **bract persistent**; heads **globular**, 20–33-flowered, golden,  $\pm$ **resinous**. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals free to 1/2-united. Pods submoniliform, **curved**, 3.5–10 cm long, 2–3 mm wide, firmly **chartaceous** to thinly **coriaceous**,  $\pm$ **appressed puberulous**. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong-elliptic** to narrowly **elliptic**, 3–4.5 mm long, glossy, pale brown; **aril** apical, conical.

## Habitat

Commonly in sandy soils but also in red and shaly soils, mostly in mallee scrub.

## Specimens

W.A.: 3.2 km E of Boorabbin on Great Eastern Hwy, *B.R.Maslin 1859* (AD, K, MEL, NSW, PERTH). N.T.: 9 km S of Gosses Bluff, *P.K.Latz 17759* (AD, DNA, NT, PERTH). S.A.: c. 22.8 km SE of Taillem Bend on Dukes Hwy, *N.Hall H80/85* (NSW, PERTH). Qld: Dingwall, 155 km SSE of Charleville, *S.L.Everist 7508* (BRI). N.S.W.: 4.8 km NE of West Wyalong, *R.Coveny 2377* (PERTH). Vic.: 4.8 km SE of Redcliffs, *J.Cullimore 30* (PERTH).

## Notes

A widespread and variable species that is often confused with *A. havilandiorum* (S.A., N.S.W., Vic). Similar in some respects to *A. masliniana* and *A. roycei* (W.A.), both of which are readily distinguished by their subulate-pungent phyllode apices; also related to *A. argyrotricha* (Qld) and possibly *Acacia* sp. *Kalannie North East* (B.R.Maslin 7915) (W.A.). One variant of *A. eremophila* was treated as *A. rigens* by B.R.Maslin, *Fl. Central Australia* 130 (1981). A glabrous variant with phyllode gland 1.5–2.5 mm above the pulvinus is noted by T.J.Entwistle *et al.*, *Fl. Victoria* 3: 614 (1996) from the Little Desert, Vic.

## FOA Reference

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

## Author

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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



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