

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia rostriformis Maslin & D.J.Murphy



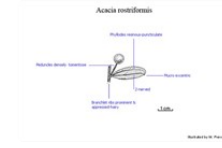
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See illustration.



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

Common Name

Bacchus Marsh Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Endemic in Vic. where it is confined to a small area around Bacchus Marsh (Lerderderg Gorge, Long Forest Nature Conservation Reserve, Coimadai and Balliang) with an outlier population from Werribee.

Description

Slightly aromatic, **obconic, dense shrub** 1–6 (–8) m tall. **Branchlets** not **flexuose**, angled towards extremities but aging **terete**, prominently ribbed, the ribs **appressed-puberulous**, rather broad and commonly yellow, the inter-rib region darker coloured and not obviously **resinous**. **Stipules** **caducous**. Phyllodes narrowly **elliptic** to **oblong-elliptic**, sometimes **oblanceolate** or **± lanceolate**, 20–45 (–60) mm long, (3–) 5–10 (–13) mm wide, generally wide-spreading, slightly shiny, **resinous-punctulate**, normally **appressed-puberulous** on margins and often **sub-uncinate**; gland 0–1 mm above **pulvinus**. Inflorescences **simple**, 1–3 (–5) per **axil**; peduncles (3–) 5–9 (–10) mm long, densely **tomentose** with short, **crisped** or **curved**, normally spreading hairs; basal peduncular **bract persistent**, **navicular-cuculate**, 2–3 mm long; heads **globular** or slightly **obloid**, 6–7 mm diam. when dry, densely 25–30-flowered, lemon yellow; bracteoles not prominent in mature buds, **acute** to short-**acuminate**. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals united almost to their apices. Pods **linear** to **narrowly oblong**, 35–80 mm long, 3–5 mm wide, firmly **chartaceous** to thinly **coriaceous**, densely **appressed-puberulous** when young, **indumentum** sparser with age. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong**, 3.5–4.7 mm long, dark brown or black; arillate.

Phenology

Flowers late Aug. to early Oct.; probably fruits Dec.–Feb.

Habitat

Grows in low hilly country on brown clay in eucalypt woodland. Occurs as discontinuous populations within a region that has been extensively cleared for agriculture, but is common in the places where it is found.

Specimens

Vic.: Werribee Gorge, *A.C.Beaglehole* 39928 (MEL); between Bacchus Marsh and the Brisbane Ra., *B.R.Maslin* 3497 (CANB, PERTH); in Australia felix [most probably collected from Bacchus Marsh], Sept. 1852, *F.Mueller* 49 (MEL).

Notes

It is rather surprising that there are relatively few contemporary collections of this species which grows only about 50 km E of Melbourne, and although geographically restricted it is a showy plant that is common in the places where it occurs. It was first collected in September 1852 by F.Mueller. See B.R.Maslin and D.Murphy, *Muelleria* 27: 212 (209) for discussion.

Referred to as the fourth variant of *A. verniciflua* by B.R.Maslin, *Fl. Australia* 11A: 597 (2001). This species is characterized by its rostriform, excentrically mucronate phyllode apices and densely hairy pods (at least when young). It appears to be most closely related to the allopatric, geographically restricted Vic. endemic, *A. exudans*. Sometimes resembles *A. leprosa* var. *graveolens* which is normally distinguished by its peduncles being less densely hairy with hairs normally appressed or sub-appressed; however, in the fourth variant of var. *graveolens* from the King Lake–Marysville area in Vic., the peduncles sometimes have dense, spreading hairs. Also sometimes superficially resembles *A. montana*.

FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

Author

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://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/wattle>
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