

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia rubida A.Cunn.



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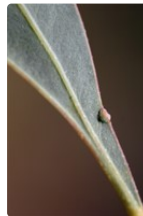
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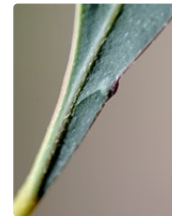
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Acacia rubida occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Red-stem Wattle, Red-leaf Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Widespread in eastern Australia from the Black Ra., Vic. N along the Great Divide through A.C.T. and N.S.W. to Stanthorpe, south-eastern Qld. Seemingly disjunct between the Armidale–Ebor area and Capertee, N.S.W.

Description

Shrub or tree usually 1.5–5 m high, with juvenile bipinnate leaves often persistent. Branchlets red to reddish brown, usually glabrous. Phyllodes narrowly elliptic to oblanceolate, falcately recurved to straight, (4–) 5–20 cm long, 4.5–25 mm wide, narrowed at base, acuminate to obtuse, green to ±glaucous, normally drying reddish at least on margins and midrib, 1-nerved per face, obscurely penninerved; gland (0.5–) 1–4 cm above pulvinus; margin frequently shallowly indented at gland which is sometimes connected to midrib by a fine oblique nerve. Inflorescences racemose; raceme axes normally 2–7 cm long, usually glabrous or appressed-puberulous; peduncles 2–4 (–6) mm long, usually glabrous or sparsely appressed-puberulous; heads globular, 10–20-flowered, light golden; bracteole laminae circular, dark brown, densely white-fimbriolate, evident in buds. Flowers 5-merous; sepals united. Pods 5–12 cm long, 5–9 mm wide, chartaceous to thinly coriaceous, lightly pruinose, glabrous. Seeds longitudinal, oblong, 4–5.5 mm long, slightly shiny, dark brown to black; funicle encircling seed in a single or double fold, dark red-brown.

Habitat

Mostly found in hilly country or at high altitudes, often near watercourses, and on a variety of soils including clays and sands.

Specimens

Qld: Girraween Natl Park, 35 km S of Stanthorpe, *M.E.Ballingall* 2295 (PERTH). N.S.W.: Muddoonen Nature Reserve, 15 km E of Yass on Hume Hwy to Goulburn, *B.R.Maslin* 5890 (MEXU, NSW, PERTH); Australia, *F.W.Sieber* 452 (G-DC, K, MEL, OXF). A.C.T.: between Bulls Head & Bendora Dam, Cotter R. district, *R.Pullen* 3856 (NSW). Vic.: W of Alexandra, Crystal Ck, Black Ra. 6 Sept. 1978 & Jan. 1979, *L.F.Costermans* (MEL).

Notes

Acacia rubida is a member of the '*Acacia microbotrya* group' related to *A. attenuata*. According to L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 299 (1980), *A. latisejala* is also related to *A. rubida* even though the former species only very rarely produces phyllodes. Some forms of *A. rubida* resemble *A. semirigida*; also sometimes similar to *A. falciformis*.

Acacia rubida is normally an upright shrub or tree 1.5–5 m high, although in Vic. it may reach 13 m or more, *fide* A.B.Court, in J.H.Willis, *Handb. Pl. Victoria* 2: 227 (1973). Its phyllodes are rather variable in shape and size but frequently they are large, falcately recurved, broadest near the middle and obviously narrowed at both ends. Specimens with straight, oblanceolate phyllodes (sometimes as short as 4–5 cm) and rather abruptly narrowed at apex, occur throughout the range and may resemble those of *A. amoena* or *A. chalkeri*. The dwarf variant of *A. rubida* from N.S.W. that was noted by B.R.Maslin, *Fl. Australia* 11A: 262 (2001), is now treated as *Acacia* sp. *Small Red-leaved Wattle* (J.B.Williams 95033).

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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Minor edits by B.R.Maslin & J.Rogers

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



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Biodiversity, Conservation
and Attractions
Western Australian Herbarium



Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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