

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia sibirica S.Moore



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.
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Image courtesy of Northern Territory Herbarium



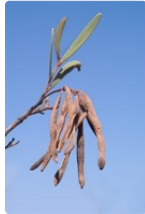
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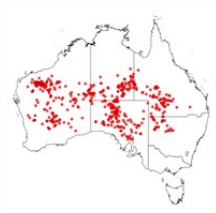
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Acacia sibirica occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

False Witchetty Bush, Desert Witchetty Bush, Bastard Mulga

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in all mainland States except Vic.

Description

Bushy, **multi-stemmed shrub** or **tree** 1.5–5 (–6) m high, resprouts from the base and also from seed following fire. Bark **fissured** at base, grey. **Branchlets terete** except at **resinous** apices, **glabrous**. Phyllodes variable in shape and size, **linear** to **narrowly oblong** or narrowly **elliptic**, flat, rarely **terete** to subterete (especially in Qld), **straight** to shallowly or moderately **incurved**, (2–) 3.5–10 (–13) cm long, 1–5 (–7) mm wide, l:w = 8–60 (–100), **acute** to subacute, somewhat **coriaceous**, **±rigid**, **glabrous**, finely multistriate with the nonanastomosing nerves of uniform prominence and 9–15 per mm; **gland** **±basal**. Peduncles 3–15 mm long, shorter than spikes; spikes paired in upper axils, **obloid** or **cylindrical**, 0.3–1 (–3.5) cm long, light golden, the flowers not especially densely arranged. Flowers 5–**merous**; **calyx cupular**, dissected to 1/5 its length, ¼–1/3 length of **corolla**. Pods **narrowly oblong** to **linear**, **straight-sided** or variably **±constricted** between seeds, flat, **convex** over seeds alternately on each side, to 12.5 cm long, 3–5 (–8) mm wide, **chartaceous**, brown, **glabrous**. Seeds **longitudinal** to longitudinally **oblique**, **elliptic-oblong**, 3–5 mm long, dark brown to blackish; **areole** small, with U-shaped **pleurogram**.

Phenology

Appears to flower throughout the year; fruits mainly Aug.–Dec. and occasionally at other times of the year.

Habitat

Common in shallow soils of stony or rocky ridges and breakaways, also on sand dunes; often in mulga communities on low hills.

Specimens

W.A.: Goongarrie, *B.R.Maslin* 1948 (K, L, NSW, PERTH). N.T.: southern boundary, Indiana Stn, *N.M.Henry* 926 (BRI, NSW, PERTH). S.A.: Stuart Creek Stn, 12 km NW of Blower Waterhole, *F.J.Badman* 3763 (AD, CANB, CORD, NE, NY). Qld: 5 miles [8 km] N of Toompine on Quilpie–Thargomindah road, Warrego district, *I.V.Newman* 923 (CANB, NSW). N.S.W.: Tibooburra, 25 Oct. 1949, *E.F.Constable* s.n. (A, AD, K, MEL, NSW, TL, Z).

Notes

The name *A. sibirica* was treated as synonymous with *A. kempeana* by P.G.Kodala, *Fl. Australia* 11B: 293; this name is now considered the correct name for the taxon treated as *A. stowardii* by NSW, *Fl. Australia* 11B: 295–296 (2001).

Plants of *A. sibirica* from the Pilbara region in W.A. are extremely variable, especially with respect to phyllode dimensions which are often longer and/or broader than on plants elsewhere. The complex patterns of variation require further study. The phyllodes vary from long, narrow and linear (generally 5–10 cm x 1–2 mm with l:w = 25–60) to short, broad (generally 3.5–7 cm x 3–5 mm with l:w = 8–15) and narrowly oblong to narrowly elliptic; there appears to be no sharp distinction between these two forms. The linear phyllode form was called *A. stowardii* Variant 1 in *Fl. Australia* 11B: 296 (2001) and the more widespread, shorter phyllode form was called *A. stowardii* Variant 2 in the same place. See B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 4: 98–99 (1982) for further discussion of this variation.

Acacia sibirica is very similar to *A. kempeana* and their relationship requires further study. It is similarly closely related to *A. duriuscula*; *A. thoma* is more distantly related. Broad phyllode forms of *A. sibirica* are often very difficult to distinguish from *A. rhodophloia* in the absence of knowing bark characters (bark red 'Minni Ritchi' in *A. rhodophloia*); these species putatively hybridize in the Pilbara (see *A. rhodophloia* × *sibirica*). Plants of *A. sibirica* with long, narrow phyllodes superficially resemble *A. adsurgens* which is distinguished by having generally longer phyllodes with a slight but discernibly pronounced central nerve, generally paler yellow spikes with flowers more densely arranged, a longer calyx relative to the corolla and peduncles which are about as long as the spikes.

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

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



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Biodiversity, Conservation
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Australian
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URL: <https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/wattle>

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