

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia* sp. Mulga Blue Crown (D.E. Albrecht 9573) NT Herbarium

#### Family

Fabaceae

#### Distribution

This possible new species is geographically and ecological restricted. It occurs in Northern Territory in the Petermann Range (not far from the W.A.) border and in the vicinity of Uluru National Park. A few sterile specimens from W.A. (in the vicinity of Warburton and Giles) may possibly be this species, but fertile material is needed to confirm the identification. A few specimens from the same region, referred to be Maslin & Reid (2012: 171) as possible intermediates between *A. aneura* and *A. ayersiana*, need to be reassessed in relation to *Acacia* sp. Mulga Blue Crowns (D.E. Albrecht 9573).

#### Description

Trees 4–9 m tall, **multi-stemmed** when young but maturing single-stemmed with a **straight bole** to c. 30 cm dbh, crown **dense** and bluish in colour; readily re-sprouting from base following fire. **Branchlets** rather prominently resin-ribbed towards apices, the resin quite well-developed and translucent, hoary between the ribs, ribs absent or obscure and hairs absent on mature **branchlets**. New shoots generally not or only slightly **resinous**; youngest 1–3 phyllodes normally obscurely or obviously **striate** with silvery white or pale cream hairs between the dark-coloured, sometimes obviously **resinous** nerves, **indumentum** rarely obscuring the nerves, the marginal **nerve** pronounced, dark-coloured and **resinous**. Phyllodes narrowly **elliptic**, moderately to strongly **recurved** (juvenile phyllodes **straight** and **dimidiate** to shallowly **recurved**, 3–7 cm x 6–8 mm), not **rigid**, flat, 6–13 cm long, 4–6(–8) mm wide, apex short-**acuminate**, minutely and obscurely **appressed**-hairy between the nerves, **glaucous**, ashen or grey-green, parallel **longitudinal** numerous, uniform prominence and relatively wide, sometimes (especially young phyllodes) **sub-distant**; discrete marginal **nerve** present, sometimes not especially prominent (except youngest phyllodes), yellow to light brown or reddish brown. Gland situated on upper margin of **phyllode** 0–1 mm above **pulvinus**. Inflorescences **simple**; peduncles 2–4 mm long, hoary or **scurfy**; spikes 14–18 mm long. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals free or united at base, **linear-spathulate** or **oblong-spathulate**, slightly longer than ½ length of petals. Pods **narrowly oblong**, 2.5–5(–6) cm long, 9–12(–15) mm wide, **straight**, flat scarcely constricted between seeds, thinly **coriaceous**, greyish brown, **glabrous** or sparsely and minutely **appressed** hairy, obscurely **reticulate**, margins very narrowly winged or sometimes bevel-edged (at least along one margin), **wing** 0.5–0.7 mm wide. Seeds unknown.

#### Habitat

*Acacia* sp. **Mulga Blue Crown** (D.E. Albrecht 9573) normally forms monotypic stands of normally widely spaced individuals. Grows in swales of sand dunes or (in south-eastern extremity of the Petermann Ranges) the lower slopes of small rocky (sandstone) hills. Frequent fires in the area where *Acacia* sp. **Mulga Blue Crown** (D.E. Albrecht 9573) occurs appear to often prevent surviving plants from attaining maturity and there is a possibility in the absence of effect fire management the survival of the remaining plants is precarious.

#### Specimens

N.T.: 33.5 km W along Docker River road from intersection with Kata-Juta – Uluru road, *D.E. Albrecht* 9573 (DNA, NT, PERTH); c. 68 km W along Docker River road from intersection with Kata-Juta – Uluru road, *D.E. Albrecht* 9583 (NT, PERTH); 50 mi [80 km] W of Ayers Rock, *C. Dunlop* 1951 (NT, PERTH); 13 km E of Irvin Creek, Petermann area, *P.K. Latz* 11682 (PCANB, DNA, NT, PERTH); 65 km W of Yulara, *P.K. Latz* 21077 (NT, PERTH); 16 km W of Armstrong Creek, *J.R. Maconochie* 1840 (NT, PERTH); 87 km W of Olgas on Docker River road, *J.G. & M.H. Simmons* 2430 (PERTH: phyllodes atypically narrow). W.A. (specimens sterile; identification to be confirmed): Mt Elevine, E of Warburton, *A.S. George* 3888 (PERTH); road to Giles from Docker River just after Rescue Creek, W of the WA-NT border, *A. Kalotas* 1531 (NT, PERTH); 35 km NNE of Warburton, *P.K. Latz* 22096 (NT, PERTH)

#### Notes

*Acacia* sp. **Mulga Blue Crown** (D.E. Albrecht 9573) is seemingly most closely related to *A. ayersiana* which is most readily recognized by having shorter sepals (less than ½ the length of the petals), broader pod wings (1–2 mm wide) and normally less prominently recurved phyllodes. This probable new species may resemble morphotypes of *Acacia aneura* that possess recurved phyllodes, however, the latter are distinguished by phyllodes commonly narrower, lack a discrete resinous marginal nerve and often have winged pods. Furthermore *A. aneura* are normally multi-stemmed shrubs to about 5 m tall (rarely taller or single-stemmed, at least in N.T.) and are fire sensitive (P. Latz, pers. comm.). *Acacia aneura* is very rarely sympatric with *Acacia* sp. **Mulga Blue Crown** (D.E. Albrecht 9573) as it grows in heavier-textured red earth soils.

#### FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

#### Author

B.R.Maslin

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



URL: <https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/wattle>  
Copyright 2018. All rights reserved.