

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia sparsiflora Maiden



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (dig.28078).
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Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.
Published at: www.worldwidewattle.com
J. & M. Simmons



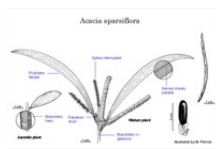
Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.
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See illustration.



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

Common Name

Currawong, Currawang

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Most common in the Darling Downs district, Qld, with scattered occurrences as far N as c. 120 km S of Charters Towers, as far W as near Adavale and S to the vicinity of Yetman, N.S.W.

Description

Tree to 15 m high. Bark rough. Branchlets glabrous or subglabrous (hairy on juvenile plants). Phyllodes (excluding juvenile plants) falcately recurved, rarely straight, narrowed at both ends, (6–) 8–16 (–22) cm long, (3–) 5–12 mm wide, thinly coriaceous, grey-green, glabrous or sparsely appressed-puberulous, with numerous fine close non-anastomosing nerves, of which 1–3 more prominent. Inflorescences binate, rudimentary racemes; raceme axes 0.5–4 mm long, normally terminated by a dormant vegetative bud, sometimes growing out at anthesis; peduncles (3–) 5–10 mm long, glabrous or sparsely appressed-puberulous; spikes 2–4.5 cm long, bright lemon-yellow, sometimes pale yellow. Flowers 5-merous; sepals united into a sinuate-toothed, glabrous calyx; ovary densely hairy. Pods shallowly constricted between and slightly convex over seeds, to 9 cm long, 2–3 mm wide, thinly coriaceous, brown with yellow margins, glabrous. Seeds longitudinal, oblong, 4–5 mm long, shiny, dark brown to blackish; funicle/aril folded below seed.

Habitat

Often forms dense stands, sometimes with *A. shirleyi*, in shallow stony soil, often over weathered sandstone, in the 625–750 mm annual rainfall belt. Also occurs in eucalypt woodland and open forest.

Specimens

Qld: 5 km W of Clermont T/S, *Adams 1271* (BRI, PERTH); on Warrego Hwy, W of Baking Board, between Chinchilla and Miles, *M.G.Lithgow 954* (BRI); 5 km SE of Ula Ula HS, *V.J.Nelder & M.B.Thomas 461* (BRI); western boundary of Milo Holding, c. 13 km WNW of Gooyea outstation, NW of Adavale, *R.W.Purdie 2057* (BRI). N.S.W.: 9 km from Yetman on Texas road, *A.N.Rodd 4110* (B n.v., BRI n.v., CANB n.v., K n.v., MEL n.v., NSW, NY n.v.).

Notes

Young plants have silvery sericeous or (on Bancroft's 'Eidsvold' collection) puberulous branchlets and phyllodes. Furthermore, their phyllodes are elliptic to narrowly elliptic, 3–5 cm long, 10–20 mm wide and straight. Mature plants are glabrous to subglabrous and have markedly falcate phyllodes mostly 8–16 cm long and 5–12 mm wide; trees with 'intermediate' foliage resemble *A. burrowii* but the two species are not closely related.

The leaves are eaten readily by stock and the trees are cut for fodder in times of drought.

In the absence of pods mature plants could be confused with *A. spirorbis* subsp. *solandri* which can be distinguished by phyllode nerves more widely spaced and sparingly anastomosing, and spikes rarely on a much-reduced raceme.

FOA Reference

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

Author

B.R.Maslin, R.S.Cowan

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

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



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Department of the Environment and Energy



Department of
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and Attractions
Western Australian Herbarium



Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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