

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia spinosissima Benth.



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See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Scattered from Cadoux S to Brookton and E to near Lake King, south-western W.A.

Description

Intricate compact or spreading **glabrous shrub** 0.2–1.5 m high. Branches substrate by ribs, \pm **pruinose**. **Branchlets** numerous, short, spreading, spinescent, commonly **aphyllous**. Phyllodes sometimes with some subfasciculate on short **branchlets**, **ascending** to **erect**, \pm **narrowly oblong**, **straight** or very shallowly **sigmoid**, usually 3–8 mm long, 1–2 mm wide, excentrically **mucronulate**, green; **midrib** obscure or slightly raised; **lateral nerves** absent. Inflorescences **rudimentary** 1-headed racemes with **axes** < 0.5 mm long; peduncles 4–12 mm long; heads **globular**, usually 3–3.5 mm diam. 7–18 (–23)-flowered, bright lemon yellow; bracteoles absent or few. Flowers **5-merous**; sepals united into a \pm **truncate calyx**; petals nerveless. Pods prominently **rounded** over seeds on alternate sides, to 6 cm long, 3–5 mm wide, thinly **coriaceous**, **pruinose**. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong**, 2.5 mm long, dark brown, **verruculose**; **aril clavate**.

Habitat

Grows in sand or sometimes clay loam.

Specimens

W.A.: Gairdner Reserve, S of Tammin, *R.Cumming 1346* (PERTH); 17 km due NE of Brookton, *R.J.Hnatiuk 790150* (PERTH); 42 km NE of Coujinup Hill, *M.A.Burgman 1331* & *S.McNee* (CANB, PERTH); 1.6 km S of Cadoux towards Manmanning, *B.R.Maslin 139* (PERTH).

Notes

Acacia spinosissima often resembles *A. erinacea* in its spinose branchlets and small phyllodes, but *A. erinacea* has whitish scurfy phyllodes, bracteolate, heads with more flowers, and very different pods and seeds. The absence of bracteoles is a possible link to *A. rostellata*. Sometimes confused with *A. ulicina* or *A. jacksonioides*.

The robust variant is a spreading shrub 0.5–1.5 m high; phyllodes 4–8 (rarely to 15) mm long, 1–2 mm wide; peduncles 5–12 mm long; heads 4–6 mm diam., 10–18 (–23)-flowered; petals 2–2.5 mm long; pods 4–5 mm wide; seeds not seen. It is known only from near Cadoux, Tammin, Boorabbin and Lake King in south-western W.A. (representative collections: *M.A.Burgman 1331* & *S.McNee*; *B.R.Maslin 139*).

The typical variant is a compact shrub 0.2–0.4 m high; phyllodes 3–7 mm long, c. 1 mm wide; peduncles 4–6 mm long; heads 3–3.5 mm diam., 7–10-flowered; petals 1.5–1.7 mm long; pods 3–3.5 mm wide. It is known only by collections from near Brookton, Tammin, Wyalkatchem, Muntadgin, Bruce Rock and Holt Rock in south-western W.A. (representative collections: *R.Cumming 1346*; *R.J.Hnatiuk 790150*).

Two variants are recognised and may ultimately be shown to warrant formal rank.

FOA Reference

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

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



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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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