

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia spondylophylla F.Muell.



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Kym Brennan



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B.R. Maslin



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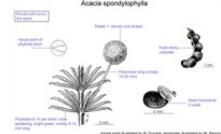
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See illustration.



See illustration.



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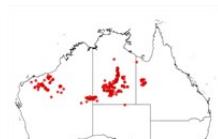
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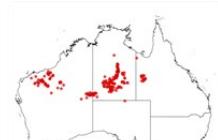
See illustration.



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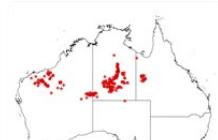
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Common Name

Curry Wattle, Spine-leaf Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs commonly in the Pilbara region and at scattered localities E to the Rawlinson Ra., W.A., in the Macdonnell and Musgrave Ranges, N.T. and E to Dajarra, Qld.

Description

Shrub to 2 m high, spreading, **viscid**, with a distinctive aromatic curry smell (at least when fresh). **Branchlets puberulous**. **Stipules** 1–1.5 mm long, **viscid**. **Phyllodes** 8–14 per whorl, **straight** to shallowly **recurved** but often slightly **recurved** at the tips, slightly flattened, 5–10 (~15) mm long, less than 1 mm wide, wide-spreading, bright green, shortly **mucronate**, shortly **puberulous**, with an obscure **impressed nerve** on upper surface and both surfaces obscurely ribbed when dry. **Peduncles** 10–25 (~35) mm long, sparsely **pilose**, **viscid**. Heads 25–40-flowered. Flowers 5-**merous**; calyx 0.8–1.2 mm long, lobed to c. half way, **membranous**, **glabrous**, with lobes **spatulate**

or triangular; corolla lobes smooth (not *striate*), *glabrous* or sparsely hairy. Pods *narrowly oblong*, flat but prominently *rounded* over seeds alternately on each side (giving pods an *undulate* appearance), *curved*, 20–40 mm long, 6–10 mm wide, with *nerve-like* margins, *coriaceous*, *viscid*. Seeds transverse, 3.5–4 mm long; *pitheogram* open.

Habitat

Grows in shallow, sandy or rocky soil.

Specimens

W.A.: Hamersley Ra., C.A.Gardner 3123 (PERTH). N.T.: Central Mt Wedge Stn, G.M.Chippendale NT1839 (BRI, CANB, DNA, NSW); c. 22 km SE of Aileron, *M.Lazarides* 5779 (BRI, CANB, DNA, MEL); 16 km S of Barrow Creek, R.A.Perry 2723 (BRI, CANB, DNA, MEL). Qld: Ardmore, 40 km W of Dajarra, S.L.Everist 3191 (BRI, CANB).

Notes

Acacia spondylophylla has horticultural potential as a ground cover or for rockery plantings. It is drought tolerant and regenerates from seed.

Often confused with *A. perryi* which has larger phyllodes and stipules, as well as striate-nerved corollas. Occasionally hybridises with *A. adoxa* var. *adoxia* in the Pilbara region, W.A. (see *A. adoxa* × *spondylophylla*). An erect variant (to c. 2 m tall) with slightly shorter than normal phyllodes occurs on Meentheena Stn in the eastern Pilbara region, W.A. It is discussed in B.R.Maslin et al., *Wattles of the Pilbara* CD-ROM (2012) under the phrase name *Acacia* sp. Meentheena (S. van Leeuwen 4529), but is probably not taxonomically significant.

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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Revised by B.R.Maslin

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



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