

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia spondylophylla F.Muell.



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

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 **incurved** 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 **spathulate**

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; pleurogram 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. *adoxo* 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:



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Study



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