

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia spongolitica R.S.Cowan & Maslin



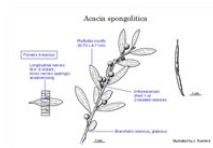
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See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Frequent and locally common from near Ongerup E to Ravensthorpe, S to Beaufort Inlet and Fitzgerald River Natl Park in south-western W.A.

Description

Spreading **shrub** 1–2 m high. **Branchlets** apically angled and **resinous**, not **viscid**, **glabrous**. Phyllodes **linear-** to **oblong-elliptic**, usually 3–7 cm long, 4–7 (–11) mm wide, **obtuse** to **acute**, **apiculate**, **coriaceous**, **glabrous**, **resinous** when young, with 1 or 2 main nerves arising from **pulvinus** and a number of parallel **distinct** ±less prominent and sparingly **anastomosing** secondary nerves in between; **gland** to 2 mm above **pulvinus**. Inflorescences 1- or 2-headed racemes; **raceme axes** 1–7 mm long; peduncles (3–) 5–9 (–14) mm long, **glabrous** or with **scattered** glandular **papillae**; heads **globular** to **short-obloid**, 4–6 mm diam., 25–32-flowered, lemon-yellow. Flowers 4-**merous**; sepals 1/3–3/4-united, glandular-ciliate. Pods **linear**, raised over seeds, **straight** to shallowly **curved**, to 7.5 cm long, 2.5–3.5 mm wide, thin-**coriaceous**, **glabrous**, ±**resinous**. Seeds **longitudinal**, **elliptic-oblong**, 4–4.5 mm long, subglossy, brown; **aril** apical.

Habitat

Usually occurs in *Eucalyptus* low woodland, in sandy and skeletal soils on spongolite breakaways, and often along creeks and rivers.

Specimens

W.A.: Beaufort Inlet, c. 45 km W of Bremer Bay, *M.McDonald 1319* (MEL, PERTH); Boat Harbour, *K.Newbey 3258* (PERTH); 22 km NNE of Ongerup, *K.Newbey 4767* (AD, BRI, CANB, K, MEL, NSW, NY, PERTH); Roe's Rock, Fitzgerald R. Natl Park, *R.D.Royce 8996* (PERTH).

Notes

A member of the '*A. flavipila* group', and perhaps most closely related to *A. lanei* and *A. ixiophylla*, both of which have pentamerous flowers and free sepals; it also superficially resembles *A. pelophila*.

The *Newbey 4767* collection from NNE of Ongerup represents the most northern occurrence of the species, and has unusually short phyllodes (20–25 mm long) and short peduncles (c. 3 mm long).

FOA Reference

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

Author

Minor edits by J.Reid

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



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