

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia steedmanii subsp. *borealis* Maslin



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.
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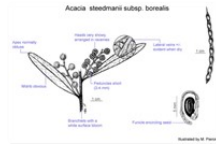
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See illustration.



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

Common Name

Northern Steedman's Wattle, Roadside Wattle (in the Pilbara)

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in central Hamersley Ra. and to the E where it is scattered though the Little Sandy Desert to the Rudall River Natl Park and near the Carnarvon Ra., W.A.

Description

Obconic, multi-stemmed shrub or tree. Phyllodes mostly 5–8 cm long and 8–15 mm wide. Racemes 1–4 cm long; peduncles 2–4 mm long; heads 40–50-flowered. Pods to 12 cm long, 5–6 (–10) mm wide. Seeds 4.5–6 mm long; funicle completely encircling the seed in a single or double fold (expanded length 30–40 mm long).

Habitat

Grows in red sand on sandplains, on rocky scree slopes and around the edges of steep breakaways and cliffs. It is best developed (sometimes forming thickets) along floodplains, drainage lines and in water-gaining sites; common along road verges in many places.

Specimens

W.A.: upper Rudall R. area near Curran Curran Rockhole, *B.R.Maslin* 2139 (CANB, G, K, MEL, NY, PERTH); between Marandoo and Hancock Gorge, N of Mt Bruce, *B.R.Maslin* 4675 (CANB, PERTH); Little Sandy Desert, *A.S.Mitchell* 514 (NT, PERTH).

Notes

An entity of uncertain taxonomic status, but with affinities to subsp. *borealis*, occurs in the Little Sandy Desert. It is characterized by having a wispy growth form and atypically long phyllodes (14–18.5 cm) and was included by B.R.Maslin in J.Jessop (ed.), *Fl. Central Australia* 133 (1981), as *A. aff. validinervia* and noted by B.R.Maslin, *Fl. Australia* 11A: 279 (2001) under *A. validinervia*. This entity is currently known under the phrase name *Acacia* sp. Lake Disappointment (*S.van Leeuwen* 2865).

Subspecies *borealis* can resprout from a basal woody rootstock following fire. It probably has a relatively fast growth rate and regenerates from seed. These attractive plants have white stems and showy, fragrant, golden heads, and as such would be well-suited for amenity plantings and in home gardens in arid areas.

Although this subspecies was treated as *A. steedmanii* by B.R.Maslin in J.Jessop (ed.), *Fl. Central Australia* 132 (1981) it was included within the circumscription of *A. validinervia* by B.R.Maslin, *Fl. Australia* 11A: 279 (2001).

A specimen from the Rudall R. area (*B.R.Maslin* 2139) with atypically wide pods (8–10 mm) is noted by B.R.Maslin, *Fl. Australia* 11A: 279 (2001), where *A.S.George* 10839 was erroneously cited as the voucher, see B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 18: 169 (2008) for discussion.

FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

Author

B.R.Maslin

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



Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy



Department of
Biodiversity, Conservation
and Attractions
Western Australian Herbarium



Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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