

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia stenophylla A.Cunn. ex Benth.



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J. Maslin



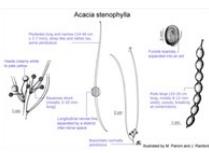
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See illustration.



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

Common Name

River Cooba (Standard Trade Name), Munumula, Balkura, Gurley, Gooralee, Ironwood, Dalby Wattle, River Myall, Belalei, Eumong, Native Willow, Black Wattle, Dunthy

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Very widely distributed in inland arid areas from far eastern Kimberley region of W.A. (with a disjunct occurrence in the Pilbara), E through N.T. to Qld (W of the Great Divide) and S to the Murray-Lachlan-Darling R. system in N.S.W., Vic. and S.A., disjunct in S.A. between L. Eyre and the Murray R.

Description

Somewhat bushy shrub or tree 4–20 m high, with a tendency to sucker. Bark rough, dark grey to blackish. Branchlets normally pendulous, glabrous to sericeous. Phyllodes ligulate, pendulous, 14–40 cm long, 2–7 mm wide, innocuous with an acute to acuminate, often curved apex, coriaceous, rather lax, glabrous or sparsely appressed-puberulous, with numerous subdistant nerves. Inflorescences (1-) 2–6-headed racemes; raceme axes (1-) 3–10 (–15) mm long, appressed-puberulous, rarely glabrous; peduncles (4–) 6–13 (–15) mm long, appressed-hairy or rarely glabrous; heads globular, 6–9 mm diam., (20–) 25–40-flowered, creamy white to pale yellow. Flowers 5-merous; sepals 3/4-united. Pods ± moniliform, breaking readily at constrictions, indehiscent, 10–26 cm long, (6–) 8–12 (–14) mm wide, woody, obscurely longitudinally wrinkled, glabrous. Seeds longitudinal, broadly elliptic to oblong-elliptic, 7–9 mm long, dark brown; funicle scarcely arillate.

Habitat

Usually grows in heavy soils along watercourses subject to periodic flooding where it frequently forms monospecific stands. *Acacia stenophylla* is a hardy, long-lived species with a moderate to fast growth rate, that coppices and has a vigorous root suckering habit. It is moderately drought- and frost-tolerant, highly salt-tolerant and is tolerant of alkalinity. It is considered a woody weed in parts of the Channel country in north-western Queensland.

Specimens

W.A.: Sturt Ck at Billiluna HS, J.H.Willis s.n. (MEL, PERTH00671967). N.T.: Stuart Hwy at Newcastle Ck, T.S.Henshall 2502 (BRI, DNA, NSW, PERTH). S.A.: Murray R., between Renmark and Chowilla Strn, 2 Sept 1982, B.R.Maslin s.n. (PERTH). Qld: 25 km NW of Headingly Strn, R.A.Perry 864 (CANB, NSW, PERTH). N.S.W.: E. bank of Gol Gol Ck, 0.5 km E. of Gol Gol, L.Thomson LXT197 (PERTH). Vic.: Wallpolla Is., 0.5 km W of Finnegan's Bridge, G.R.Lucas 367 (MEL).

Notes

An overview of the biology, ecology and utilisation potential of *A. stenophylla* is provided by B.R.Maslin & M.W.McDonald, *AcaciaSearch: Evaluation of Acacia as a woody crop option for southern Australia* 216–220 (2004).

The long phyllodes and growth form may resemble *A. coriacea* subsp. *pendens* and *A. pachycarpa*. Subspecies *pendens* is most readily distinguished by its striate, coriaceous pods which do not break at the constrictions, conspicuous, orange seed aril, shorter racemes and more finely nerved phyllodes (without discrete inter-nerve spaces). *Acacia pachycarpa* is readily recognized by its spicate inflorescences, non-moniliform pods and obscurely reticulately nerved phyllodes.

FOA Reference

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

Author

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



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