

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia suaveolens* (Sm.) Willd.



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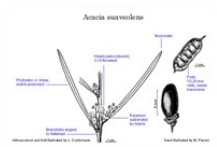
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*Acacia suaveolens* occurrence map.  
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living  
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

### Common Name

Sweet Wattle, Sweet-scented Wattle

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Occurs in coastal and near-coastal areas from Bustard Bay area, Qld, S through N.S.W. to Cape Otway, Vic., also Casterton to near Penola, S.A., Tas., and some Bass Strait islands.

### Description

Slender, sparingly branched **shrub** usually 1–3 m high. **Branchlets** acutely angled to flat, sometimes **pruinose, glabrous**. Phyllodes **ascending** to **erect**, narrowly **linear** to **linear-oblongate** or very narrowly **elliptic**, frequently shallowly **incurved**, (4–) 7–14 (–15) cm long, (1–) 2–10 (–12) mm wide, lw = 12–25, narrowed at base, **mucronate**, thin to moderately **coriaceous, glabrous**; **midrib** prominent; **lateral nerves** absent or obscure; glands not prominent, 0–2 mm above **pulvinus**, normally also at base of **mucro**. Inflorescences 6–12-headed racemes; **raceme axes** 1–3 cm long, enclosed when young by conspicuous **imbricate** bracts; peduncles 3–5 mm long, to 10 mm in fruit, slender, **glabrous**; heads **globular**, 3–10-flowered, usually ±white to cream or lemon yellow; bracteoles absent. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals free, narrowly **linear**. Pods **oblong**, 2–5 cm long, 1–2 cm wide, thinly **coriaceous-crustaceous**, purplish brown to blue-black, **pruinose, glabrous**. Seeds transverse, **elliptic**, 6–7 mm long, shiny, black; **aril** brown-black.

### Habitat

Grows in sand or on sandstone, usually in heath or woodland.

### Specimens

S.A.: Glencoe, c. 15 km NNW of Mt Gambier, *R.Bates 1514* (AD). Qld: Wide Bay Military Training Area, c. 9 km NNE of Camp Kerr, *L.G.Adams 3502* (BRI). N.S.W.: Pacific Hwy, 0.8 km E of Kariang, *R.Coveny 4878* (PERTH). Vic.: c. 10 km by road NE of Rosebud, Port Phillip Bay, *B.R.Maslin 5472* (PERTH). Tas.: Circular Head, 17 Aug. 1837 and 3 Jan. 1841, *R.Gunn 173/1842* (both PERTH).

### Notes

Closely allied to *A. subcaerulea* from W.A. Similar to *A. iteaphylla* which has a different habit, branchlets angled only at the extremities, heads with more flowers, longer peduncles, longer, normally narrower pods and longitudinal seeds.

Two variants are recorded for N.S.W. by D.A.Morrison *et al.*, *Victorian Naturalist* 100: 141 (1983) and T.D.Auld & D.A.Morrison, *Austral. J. Bot.* 40: 1–11 (1992), namely, a prostrate variant from around Sydney and a very narrow phyllode variant in the Myall Lakes area. A review of the biology of *A. suaveolens* is given in D.A.Morrison, *Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales* 109: 271–292 (1987). An analysis of the patterns of variation in *A. suaveolens* is given in D.A.Morrison & A.J.Rupp, *Austral. Syst. Bot.* 8: 1013–1027 (1995). In this work four new subspecies are described, but the names have not been adopted here. A rare plant with pink heads was recently discovered near Sydney.

#### 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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Minor edits by B.R.Maslin & J.Rogers

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



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Department of the Environment and Energy



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Biodiversity, Conservation  
and Attractions  
Western Australian Herbarium



Australian  
Biological  
Resources  
Study



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

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