

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia synantha Maslin, M.D.Barrett & R.L.Barrett



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

Common Name

Sandstone Synchronous Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in the W Kimberley region of northern Western Australia where it is known from only three populations over a distance of c. 20 km in the northern Prince Regent Natl Park.

Description

Erect, glabrous shrub c. 1.5 m tall. Branchlets angled to ±flattened at extremities but aging *terete*, brownish grey, resin-ribbed. Phyllodes *elliptic* or sometimes *ovate-elliptic*, *dimidiate* with lower margin *straight* or shallowly *convex* and upper margin clearly *convex*, (3-) 3.5–7 cm long, 10–25 mm wide, l: w = 3–4.5, thinly *coriaceous*, dull green (fresh) but sometimes drying greyish, with 4–7 main *longitudinal* nerves of which 1–3 are *confluent* with lower margin for 3–8 mm above the *pulvinus*, minor nerves forming an open *reticulum* with *longitudinal nerve-islands*, marginal *nerve* yellow and *resinous* but not prominent, apical *muco* knob-like or ±conical, thickened, short (0.5–0.8 mm long), *straight* and *erect*; *gland* 0–1 mm above the *pulvinus*. Inflorescences mostly *simple*, initiated within *axil* of young phyllodes on developing new shoots; peduncles 3–6 mm long, 2–5 per *axil*, slender; spikes 30–40 mm long, the flowers widely spaced. Flowers 5-*merous*; *calyx* c. ½ length of *corolla*, shortly dissected into broadly *triangular* lobes, *calyx* tube *glabrous*. Pods and seeds not seen.

Phenology

The paucity of collections makes it difficult to assess the phenology but available gatherings were collected in Jan. and possessed semi-mature buds, often accompanied by spikes at an advanced stage of anthesis.

Habitat

Occurs on sandstone pavement in vegetation comprising low shrubs over *Triodia* sp.

Specimens

W.A.: [localities withheld for conservation reasons] *R.L.Barrett, M.Maier & P.Kendrick* RLB 6249 (DNA, NSW, PERTH).

Notes

The absence of pods makes it difficult to determine affinities with certainty. However, *A. synantha* appears related to *A. oligoneura* which is readily distinguished by its longer phyllodes (9–18 cm) with more clearly longitudinally trending minor nerves and the main nerves rarely confluent with the lower margin. Seemingly also related to the polymorphic *A. oncinocarpa* (which is not common in W.A.) which is also distinguished by longer phyllodes (mostly 6–15 cm) with main nerves not often confluent with the lower margin; also the minor nerves of the phyllodes do not often anastomose and the gland is 2–6 (–10) mm above the pulvinus. Superficially similar to *A. anastomosa* which differs most obviously in having much shorter and densely-flowered spikes on longer peduncles and generally fewer inflorescences within the phyllode axils (see B.R.Maslin, M.D.Barrett & R.L.Barrett, *Nuytsia* 23: 564, 2013, for further details).

Conservation

Acacia synantha is listed as Priority Two under Department of Parks and Wildlife Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora.

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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