

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia tenuispica Maslin



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.
Published at: www.worldwidewattle.com
See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in the Kimberley region of northern W.A., at the Prince Regent R. and E of Walcott Inlet (where it is seemingly uncommon) and the Drysdale R. area (where it is common).

Description

Shrub to 4 m high, sometimes a **tree** to 6 m high, openly branched, \pm **obconic**, **glabrous**, variably **resinous**. **Branchlets** rather prominently ribbed, angled towards apices, variably **tuberculate**. Phyllodes asymmetrically narrowly **elliptic**, **straight** but sometimes shallowly **recurved** at apices, mostly 4–7 cm long, 6–16 mm wide, commonly \pm **acute**, **mucronate**, thin, often drying brownish, sparsely **tuberculate**, with numerous subdistal nerves; nerves 3–5, slightly more pronounced than the intervening venules; anastomoses few or absent; glands 2 or 3, not prominent, with lowermost 0–1 mm above **pulvinus** and uppermost at base of **mucro**. Inflorescences **simple**, 2 per **axil**; spikes 1.5–4.5 cm long, narrow, golden; peduncles 1.5–3 mm long. Flowers **5-merous**; sepals free. Pods **narrowly oblong**, narrowed at base, to 7.5 cm long, 6–8 mm wide, **woody**, red-brown, finely obliquely nerved, dehiscing elastically from apex; margins narrowly winged with **wing** c. 2 mm wide. Seeds **oblique**, **elliptic**, 4–4.5 mm long, somewhat shiny, brown; **funicle/aril** narrowly **turbinate**.

Habitat

Grows most commonly on sandstone in *Eucalyptus* woodland.

Specimens

W.A.: Drysdale R. Natl Park, *S.J.Forbes* 2322 (BRI, MEL, PERTH); Blyxa Ck, Prince Regent R. Reserve [Natl Park], *A.S.George* 12492 (BRI, PERTH); 2 km E of junction of Chamley & Calder Rivers, *A.V.Milewski* 224 (PERTH).

Notes

A variant of uncertain rank is known from a single collection from the Prince Regent R. area, *viz.* 15 km E of King Cascade, *K.F.Kenneally* 10537 & *B.P.M.Hyland* (PERTH). This specimen resembles *A. tenuispica* in phyllode shape and size and short peduncles, but has the distinctive 2-nerved, reticulately nerved phyllodes and resin-ribbed branchlets of *A. richardsii*. Although these characters suggest that the specimen represents a hybrid, *A. richardsii* is not known to occur in the Prince Regent R. area and *A. tenuispica* is apparently uncommon there.

The carpological characters, narrow spikes and free sepals relate *A. tenuispica* to *A. richardsii* (which has shorter, mostly 2-nerved, reticulately nerved phyllodes), *A. conjunctifolia* (which has shorter, clustered phyllodes) and *A. gonocarpa* (which has narrower, linear phyllodes and prominently winged pods). *Acacia lentiginea* and *A. kimmerleyensis* seem to be related to this group, as does the 'Minni Ritchi' species, *A. delibrata*.

FOA Reference

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

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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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