

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia thomsonii Maslin & M.McDonald



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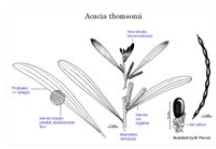
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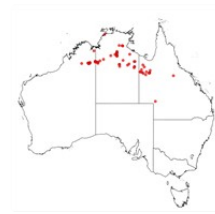
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See illustration.



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

Common Name

Thomson's Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Discontinuous in northern Australia from near Halls Creek, W.A., through N.T. to the Mount Isa region, Qld.

Description

Often ±spindly **shrub** or **tree** 2–6 m high. New shoots encrusted with bronze or brownish resin at initiation, not **viscid**. **Branchlets sericeous**. Phyllodes **patent** to **ascending**, mostly slightly **asymmetric**, **oblanceolate** to **narrowly oblong-elliptic**, ±**straight** to shallowly **falcate**, 7.5–17 cm long, 10–22 mm wide, **rounded-obtuse** to subacute, green to grey-green, sparsely to moderately **sericeous**, multistriate with normally 3 nerves more evident than the rest, sparingly **anastomosing**; **gland** basal. Inflorescences **rudimentary** 2-headed racemes with **axes** to 0.5 mm long; peduncles normally 3–7 mm long and sparsely **sericeous**; spikes 15–30 mm long, golden; **receptacle glabrous**. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals united to near apex, **calyx** tube **glabrous** or sparsely white-**puberulous**. Legumes **linear**, **straight** to shallowly **curved**, raised over and variably constricted between the seed, mostly 4.5–8 cm long, 3–4 (–4.5) mm wide, firmly **chartaceous** to thinly **coriaceous**, red-brown to dark brown, **glabrous** to subglabrous. Seeds **longitudinal**, ±**oblong**, (3–) 3.5–4 (–5) mm long, glossy, dark brown to black; **aril** normally bright yellow.

Habitat

Grows in usually skeletal, slightly acidic soil on dissected plateaux and rocky low hills (often along diffuse drainage lines) and stony or sandy plains.

Specimens

W.A.: Moola Bulla Stn, W of Halls Creek, *C.E.Harwood 328-384 & M.McDonald* (PERTH); 16 km SW of Halls Creek on Great N Hwy, *B.R.Maslin 7157* (PERTH). N.T.: 2.4 km N of Dunmarra Roadhouse on Stuart Hwy, *L.Thomson LXT1232A-J & K* (BRI, DNA, PERTH). Qld: 35 km E of Camooweal, *B.V.Gunn 2469* (PERTH).

Notes

Currently under evaluation for multipurpose use in dry areas of sub-Saharan Africa; the potential of its seeds as a source of human food is also being assessed.

A relatively invariable species formerly confused with *A. cowleana*. Its closest relative, however, is *A. colei* which differs especially by its normally pale yellow-sericeous new shoots, wider, densely sericeous, darker coloured, more obviously reticulate phyllodes, longer spikes and strongly curved (rarely coiled) pods. The two species are sometimes sympatric. Also related to *A. camptocarpa* (W.A.) and putatively hybridises with *A. gonoclada* in N.T.

A relatively short-lived species that regenerates prolifically from seed following fires and favourable rainfall. Usually produces seed precociously and in large quantities.

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:



Australian Government
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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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