

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia tropica (Maiden & Blakely) Tindale



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in the Gulf country of N.T. between Roper Hwy and the McArthur R. and on Groote Is., and in parts of northern Qld.

Description

Tall **shrub** or **tree** 3–8 m high, with sparse whippy branches. Bark smooth, later **fibrous**, grey-brown or red-brown. **Branchlets** acutely angular, finely **striate**, **glabrous**. Phyllodes very narrowly **elliptic** or sometimes **elliptic**, **straight** but sometimes shallowly **recurved** at apex, base normally **oblique**, mostly **erect**, 9–16 cm long, 10–40 mm wide, **coriaceous**, **glabrous**, multistriate with 3 nerves more prominent than the rest (the lowermost two \pm running together near **phyllode** base); minor nerves widely spaced, 2 or 3 per mm and moderately **anastomosing**; **mucro** knob-like; **pulvinus** mostly 4–5 mm long. Spikes mostly paired in axils, 3–5.5 cm long, bright yellow; peduncles 7–15 mm long. Flowers 5-**merous**; **calyx** 0.4–0.5 mm long, dissected by c. $\frac{1}{2}$, almost **glabrous** except for marginal cilia and **scattered hyaline** hairs sometimes along keels and near base; **corolla** 1.5–2 mm long; **ovary** densely hairy. Pods **linear**, **straight** to variously **curved**, openly **coiled** or **undulate**, 2–6 cm long, 3–3.5 mm wide, thinly **crustaceous**, **glabrous**, dark brown, prominently **convex** over seeds; margins pale coloured. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong**, 3–4 mm long, 1.8–2.5 mm wide, brown, shiny; **aril** terminal, **cupular**.

Phenology

Flowers June–Aug.

Habitat

Grows in deep sandy soil with *Melaleuca viridiflora* along watercourses at base of sandstone hills.

Specimens

N.T.: 30 miles [48 km] E of O.T. Stn, *R.A. Perry 1872* (CANB, NSW). Qld: Westmoreland Stn, *C.H. Gittins 845* (NSW); 'Westmoreland', *L. Pedley 2092* (BRI, NSW); 17 miles [27.4 km] SW of Claraville Stn, *M. Lazarides 3932* (BRI, CANB, NSW).

Notes

Acacia tropica, which is sometimes placed in the '*A. cunninghamii* group', is characterised by glabrous branchlets, glabrous peduncles 5–15 mm long, and corollas and calyces persisting on the spikes after the stamens have fallen. According to L. Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 174 (1978), the widely spaced secondary nerves in the phyllodes of *A. tropica* indicate that this species may be more closely allied to *A. cowleana* and *A. leptocarpa* than to *A. concurrens* and its relatives. It is closely related to *A. lacertensis*.

FOA Reference

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

Author

Dr M.D. Tindale and Dr P.G. Kodela with the assistance of M. Bedward, S.J. Davies, C. Herscovitch, D.A. Keith and/or D.A. Morrison

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



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