

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia tumida var. *pilbarensis* M.W.McDonald



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See illustration.



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

Common Name

Pilbara Pindan Wattle, Silver-leaf Wattle, for Aboriginal names see B.R.Maslin et al., *Wattles of the Pilbara* CD-ROM (2010)

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Mostly confined to the Pilbara region in north-western W.A with scattered occurrences in the Little and Great Sandy deserts in the vicinity of Telfer.

Description

Shrub or shapely **tree** mostly 2–6 m high, single- or **multi-stemmed**, canopy openly branched. Bark normally smooth and **pruinose** on adolescent plants and upper branches of mature plants, becoming **fissured**, **fibrous** and grey on main trunks of mature plants. **Branchlets** normally **pruinose**. Adult phyllodes **falcate** to subfalcate, (8–) 10–15 cm long, 8–22 mm wide, non-**pruinose** or lightly **pruinose**, green to subglaucous or (especially on young plants) **glaucous**. Peduncles (3–) 4–10 (–12) mm long; spikes normally 2–4 cm long. Pods (5–) 6–10 (–12) mm wide. Seeds 5–7 mm long, 3–5 mm wide.

Phenology

Flowers Apr.–Sept. with main flush late May–July.

Habitat

Grows mainly in open woodlands often along seasonal creeks and drainage lines in neutral to alkaline sand (pH 6–7) or clay loam (pH 8–9) on plains or in rocky hills.

Specimens

W.A.: 37 km from Port Hedland turnoff on Roy Hill–Meekatharra rd, *A.M.Ashby 4190* (AD, MEL, PERTH); Telfer mining centre, *E.M.Goble-Garratt EMG 41* (PERTH); 88 km NW of Newman on rd to Juna Downs, *B.R.Maslin 4618* (BRI, CANB, PERTH).

Notes

This variety is fire-sensitive and does not coppice following fire, *vide* M.W.McDonald, *Australian Systematic Botany* 16(2): 163 (2003). It is used extensive in the mine site rehabilitation industry in the Pilbara and elsewhere in northern Australia; also by Aboriginal peoples of the central and western Pilbara as a food and for weapons, see B.R.Maslin et al., *Wattles of the Pilbara* CD-ROM (2010) for details.

This variety was included within the concept of *A. tumida* var. *tumida* by M.W.McDonald and B.R.Maslin in B.R.Maslin (coordinator), *WATTLE Acacias of Australia* CD-ROM (2001). The two varieties are closely related, *vide* M.W.McDonald, *Australian Systematic Botany* 16(2): 143, 162 (2003), for details.

Superficially similar to *A. hamersleyensis* which has non-racemose and hairy pods. Occasionally putatively hybridizes with *A. eriopoda* (see *A. eriopoda* × *tumida* var. *pilbarensis*), *A. monticola* (see *A. monticola* × *tumida* var. *pilbarensis*) and *A. trachycarpa* (see *A. trachycarpa* × *tumida* var. *pilbarensis*), and possibly *A. citrinoviridis* (see *A. citrinoviridis* × *tumida* var. *pilbarensis*).

Phyllodes on juvenile and adolescent plants are straight and dimidiate and are broader (to 40 mm wide) than those on mature adults; seedling phyllodes have dense,

spreading hairs which are lost by the time plants reach adolescence (at about 6–12 months of age).

FOA Reference

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

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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