

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia uncifolia* (J.M.Black) O'Leary



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.  
Published at: [www.worldwidewattle.com](http://www.worldwidewattle.com)  
B.R. Maslin



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See illustration.



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

### Common Name

Summer Wattle, Wirilda, Coast Wirilda, Coastal Wirilda

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Disjunct in coastal and near-coastal areas when it occurs on Kangaroo Is. and southern Fleurieu Penin., S.A., near Torquay to Wilsons Promontory, Vic., and King and Flinders Islands, Tas.

### Description

Bushy **shrub** or **tree** 5–10 m high, stems twisted, often spreading by runners and coppicing to form **dense** groves. Bark smooth, becoming longitudinally **fissured** with age, grey to dark brown. **Branchlets glabrous**. Phyllodes **crowded** on stems, 4–10 mm apart, **oblanceolate** to narrowly **oblanceolate**, (2.5–) 3–7.5 (–8) cm long, (2–) 3–10 (–15) mm wide, rather abruptly narrowed to a delicate, **recurved-uncinate** point, green to grey-green, **glaucous**, 1-nerved per face, obscurely **penninerved**; **gland** 0–8 mm above **pulvinus**. Inflorescences **racemose**; **raceme axes** 2–4 (–5) cm long; peduncles 2–5 mm long, **glabrous**; heads **globular**, (16–) 18–30 (–32)-flowered, pale yellow to cream. Flowers 5-merous; sepals united; **ovary** with sparse to **dense** short hairs. Pods **linear**, to 16 cm long, 5–7 (–8) mm wide, firmly **chartaceous**. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong** to **oblong-elliptic**, 4–6 mm long, dark brown to black; **funicle**  $\frac{3}{4}$  or more encircling seed, red-brown to blackish; **aril clavate**.

### Habitat

Grows in sandy soils over limestone.

### Specimens

S.A.: near Cygnet R., Kangaroo Is., *G.Jackson* 473 (AD); Port Lincoln, *herb. R.Tate* (AD97422170). Vic.: Cape Schanck area, c. 14 km due W of Flinders, *B.R.Maslin* 5473A (CANB, MEL, PERTH). Tas.: Currie, King Is., 28 Jan. 1971, *P.Barnett* s.n. (MEL).

### Notes

Until recently regarded as a variety of *A. retinodes* but now considered more appropriately treated as a distinct species; see M.C.O'Leary, *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 21: 102 (2007) for discussion.

A member of the '*Acacia microbotrya* group', most closely related to *A. retinodes* which differs in its rough, different coloured bark, generally longer phyllodes, glabrous ovary and broader pods. Also closely related to *A. provincialis* which is most readily distinguished by its smooth, grey bark, often pruinose branchlets and phyllodes that are uncrowded on stems, more numerous flowers per head that are pale yellow to golden and glabrous ovary. See M.C.O'Leary, *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 21: 97 Table 1 (2007), for additional differences.

Information on the biological and ecological features, and the utilisation potential, of this species is given in B.R.Maslin and M.W.McDonald, *AcaciaSearch: Evaluation of Acacia as a woody crop option for southern Australia*, RIRDC Publication No. 30/017, 186–189 (2004).

A detailed discussion of *A. uncifolia* (published as *A. retinodes* var. *uncifolia*) in Tasmania is given in A.J.J.Lynch (1993), *Conserv. Biol. & Managem. of 16 Rare or Threat. Fabaceae Species Tas.* (ANPWS Endangered Species Program Project No. 4: 41–47, 1993). It should be noted, however, that the flowering branch shown in Figure 5.1 of that work depicts *A. retinodes*.

### Conservation

Superficially resembling *A. alcockii* which differs in its wider phyllodes, larger number of flowers per head, and pods with seed transversely orientated; occurrences of *A. uncifolia* (syn. *A. retinodes* var. *uncifolia*) on southern Eyre Penin., noted by B.R.Maslin, *Fl. Australia* 11A: 283 (2001), are now referable to *A. alcockii*. Phyllodes sometimes similar to those of *A. flocktoniae* (N.S.W.) and *A. euthycarpa*.

### FOA Reference

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

### Author

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



**Australian Government**  
Department of the Environment and Energy



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URL: <https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/wattle>  
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