

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia wilhelmiana F.Muell.



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

Common Name

Wilhem's Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Restricted to mallee regions of S.A., N.S.W. and Vic.

Description

Dense spreading often resinous shrub to 2 (–3) m high. Branchlets sparsely to moderately appressed-puberulous, glabrescent, commonly yellow-ribbed at extremities. Phyllodes linear or (when broad) narrowly oblong-elliptic, incurved to shallowly sigmoid, sometimes incurved only at base otherwise straight, flat to terete, usually 1–3 cm long, 1–4 mm wide, lw = 5–20, commonly ±uncinate, glabrous to subglabrous, with 2 (rarely more) nerves per face when flat, 5-nerved in all when subterete; nerves indistinct or prominent and sometimes mealy. Inflorescences 1- or 2-headed racemes with axes to c. 1 mm long, sometimes simple; peduncles usually 2–5 mm long, densely light golden appressed-puberulous; basal bract solitary; heads globular, usually 17–22-flowered, light golden. Flowers 5-merous; sepals c. 1/2-united. Pods strongly curved to openly 1 1/2-coiled, often twisted, to 6 cm long, (1.5–) 2–3 mm wide, glabrous, viscid when young. Seeds longitudinal, oblong, arillate.

Habitat

Grows in sand or loamy sand on plains or dunes.

Specimens

S.A.: 58 km N Cowell, *B.Copley 3080* (NSW). N.S.W.: 1.8 km W of Euabalong West, *G.M.Cunningham 450 & P.L.Milthorpe* (NSW). Vic.: 16 km SW of Hattah, *G.R.Lucas 186* (PERTH).

Notes

Nomenclatural history of *A. wilhelmiana* is discussed by A.B.Court, *Muelleria* 2: 159–162 (1972). For a discussion of the publication date of this species in *Defin. Austral. Pl.*, and in *Trans. Philos. Soc. Victoria* 1: 37 (10 Sept. 1855), see O.Seberg, *Taxon* 35: 262–271, 1986).

Specimens from the Flinders Ra. area, S.A., with peduncles 6–8 mm long, flowers 28–31 per head and some phyllodes 4.5–6 cm long, may warrant infraspecific status (e.g. *M.Tindale s.n.*, NSW108539, PERTH).

Phyllodes are very polymorphic in both size and transverse sectional shape (varying from broad and flat to narrow and terete or sub-terete) and require further study to elucidate the complex patterns of variation. Specimens with narrow phyllodes resemble *A. johnsonii*, *A. pilligaensis*, *A. burbridgeae* and other members of the '*A. johnsonii* group', but are distinguished by their golden-puberulous peduncles with a persistent basal bract and curved to coiled pods. Specimens with broad phyllodes resemble *A. montana*.

Acacia wilhelmiana together with nine close relatives (*A. abrupta*, *A. ascendens*, *A. barattensis*, *A. brachypoda*, *A. cowaniana*, *A. gracillifolia*, *A. helmsiana*, *A. menzelii* and *A. viscidifolia*) comprise the '*A. wilhelmiana* group', *fide* B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 7: 221–228 (1990). *Acacia viscidula* (which has 4-merous flowers) and *A. ptychoclada* are possibly also related to this group. *Acacia sclerophylla* var. *sclerophylla* is sometimes confused with *A. wilhelmiana*.

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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