Acacia willingii Lewington & Maslin

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

Common Name

Willing's Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in Kimberley region, W.A., where seemingly rare and restricted to Wade Ck area.

Description

Wispy shrub 3–7 m high, branches virgate to sub-pendulous. Branchlets densely white-tomentose. Stipules persistent, setaceous, 3–4 mm long. Phyllodes crowded, ascending to erect, narrowly oblong, (0.6–) 0.8–2.7 (–3) cm long, 1.3–2.3 mm wide, mucronate to sub-setose by a delicate, short point 0.5 mm long, appressed-hairy; nerves numerous, closely parallel, rarely anastomosing, obscure with ±central one slightly pronounced; gland 2–4 mm above pulvinus. Inflorescences simple, peduncles (3–) 4–7 mm long, densely white-tomentose; spikes 15–35 mm long, dense, light golden. Flowers 5-merous; sepals almost free, short-tomentose (as are petals). Pods narrowly oblong, flat but prominently rounded over seeds, 3.5–8 cm long, (5–) 6–7.5 mm wide, firmly chartaceous to thinly coriaceous, mid-brown, densely hairy, very obscurely obliquely nerved. Seeds oblique, oblong, depressed at centre, 4–4.5 mm long, sub-shiny, dark brown to black, areole dull; aril terminal.

Habitat

Grows in skeletal soils in crevices on horizontal sandstone terraces; associated with Hummock Grassland.

Specimens

W.A.: Wade Ck area [precise localities withheld for conservation reasons], *C.A.Gardner 1534/1034* (PERTH: see M.A.Lewington and B.R.Maslin, *op. cit*. 74, for discussion of Gardner collecting numbers) and 6 Aug. 2006, *T.Willing* (PERTH).

Notes

Most closely related to *A. kelleri* which differs most obviously in its pods which are submoniliform, narrower, dark red-brown, mostly glabrous, longitudinally striate and have longitudinally orientated seeds. In the absence of pods the species can be difficult to separate but *A. kelleri* has phyllodes with nerves more pronounced, apical points longer and more distinctly setose, and generally longer peduncles; see M.A.Lewington and B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 19(1): 73–74 (2009), for discussion. Also allied to *A. chrysochaeta* which differs in its usually longer phyllodes and peduncles, and especially in having broader pods which, like the flowers, possess golden hairs when young, and *A. dacrydioides* which is readily distinguished by its subterete phyllodes.

This species was referred to as 'a possible new taxon with affinity to *A. kelleri*' by NSW in *Fl. Australia* 11B: 204 (2001).

FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

Author

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