

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

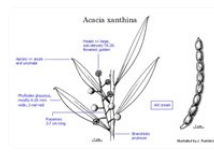
### *Acacia xanthina* Benth.



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.  
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B.R. Maslin



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See illustration.



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See illustration.



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

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Coastal and near coastal areas from S of Kalbarri S to Fremantle and inland between Mingenew and Three Springs, W.A.

### Description

**Dense shrub** or **tree** to 4 m high. Trunks often **pruinose**. **Branchlets pruinose, glabrous**. Phyllodes usually narrowly **elliptic**, usually 6–10 cm long, 6–20 (–25) mm wide,  $l:w = 3-15$ ,  $\pm$ **acute** and **uncinate**, thin, **glaucous, glabrous**, usually 2-nerved with **adaxial nerve** less pronounced than **midrib**; **lateral nerves** obscure; **gland** 2–5 mm above **pulvinus**, and at base of **mucro**. Inflorescences 3–9-headed racemes; **raceme axes** 2–7 cm long, robust, **glabrous**; peduncles 5–12 mm long, robust, **glabrous**; heads **globular**, 7–10 mm diam., to 12 mm when fresh, subdense, 18–20-flowered, golden. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals united into a  $\pm$ **truncate calyx**. Pods  $\pm$ **erect**, submoniliform, to 11 cm long, 5–7 mm wide, firmly **crustaceous, glabrous**. Seeds **longitudinal, oblong-elliptic**, 5 mm long, dull, black; **aril** cream but drying yellow-brown.

### Habitat

Grows in sand over limestone in scrub, thicket, mallee, woodland or low forest.

### Specimens

W.A.: just N of Geraldton, *A.M.Ashby* 4629 (CANB, K, PERTH); Three Springs–Mingenew, *J.S.Beard* 1963 (PERTH); 20.6 km S of Kalbarri on track past coastal gorges, *R.Cumming* 1751 (PERTH); Leeman, *E.A.Griffin* 577 (CANB, MEL, PERTH); Reabold Hill, Perth Metropolitan Area, *B.R.Maslin* 2305 (PERTH).

### Notes

Specimens from near Kalbarri are atypical in their linear-elliptic, consistently 1-nerved phyllodes to 13 cm long.

A member of the '*A. bivenosa* group' most readily recognised by its pruinose branchlets, cream arils and long, broad phyllodes with usually 2 longitudinal nerves on each face (the adaxial one is the less pronounced and is occasionally absent) (*vide* A.R.Chapman & B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 8: 280 (1992)). Closely related to and commonly parapatric with *A. rostellifera* which occurs on coastal sand dunes whereas *A. xanthina* occurs on adjacent inland limestone ridges; *A. rostellifera* is distinguished by its scurfy, non-pruinose branchlets, red or orange aril and normally larger flower-head diameter. Near Jurien Bay the habitat specificity between *A. xanthina* and *A. rostellifera* breaks down in disturbed sites along road verges and the two species apparently hybridise. May resemble broad, glaucous phyllode forms of *A. blakelyi* which has horizontally flattened phyllodes with the gland situated on the adaxial surface (not the adaxial margin as in *A. xanthina*). Also related to *A. didyma*.

### FOA Reference

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

### Author

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



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