

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia xiphophylla E.Pritz.



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

Common Name

Snake-wood

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

W.A., widespread across the Pilbara from Shark Bay NE to near Roebourne and Roy Hill, with one collection from near Wiluna.

Description

Shrub or tree 3–7 m high, often gnarled, bushy, main branches often rather **contorted** and widely spreading. **Branchlets** **glabrous** or sparingly **appressed-puberulous**. **Phyllodes** **ascending**, narrowly **elliptic** to **narrowly oblong-elliptic**, tapering to **acute** or **acuminate** apex and long-**attenuate** base, **straight** to slightly **curved**, 5–12.5 cm long, (5–) 6–13 (–16) mm wide, **rigid**, \pm **glaucous**, **sericeous**, **glabrescent**, with numerous very obscure closely parallel nerves; central **nerve** sometimes slightly raised. **Inflorescences** **rudimentary** 1- or 2-headed racemes with **axes** c. 0.2 mm long, often growing out; peduncles 5–7 (–17) mm long, \pm **appressed-puberulous**; spikes 2.5–5.5 cm long, 5–7 mm diam., loosely flowered, light golden; **receptacle** **appressed-hairy**. Flowers mostly **5-merous**; sepals 1/4–1/3 length of petals, united, often golden-**puberulous**. Pods **pendent**, **linear**, raised over and sometimes \pm **constricted** between seeds, **straight** to slightly **curved**, 8–20 cm long, (7–) 9–15 (–18) mm wide, **crustaceous-woody**, irregularly coarsely **reticulate**, **glabrous**, shining. Seeds **longitudinal**, broadly **elliptic**, 6–10 mm long, peripherally crested, dull, brown; **aril/funicle** **fleshy**.

Habitat

Grows on sometimes subsaline clay flats, stony plains and hills, in *Acacia* shrubland and low woodland, dominating in localised areas.

Specimens

W.A.: just N of Billabong, North West Coastal Hwy, *G.Phillips for A.M.Ashby 4828* (AD, MEL, NY, PERTH); Wandagee, Minilya R., *C.A.Gardner 6165* (PERTH); c. 15 km S of Roy Hill Stn on Great Northern Hwy, *B.R.Maslin 5272* (PERTH); 18.5 km W of Tom Price, *B.R.Maslin 5573* (BRI, CANB, NSW, PERTH); Wiluna area, Dec. 1970, *J.Morrissey* (PERTH).

Notes

Seemingly most closely related to the more southerly distributed *A. burrowsiana*. Superficially similar to the flat phyllode variant of *A. intorta*; and to *A. eremaea* (sect. *Plurinerves*). Perhaps related to *A. hamersleyensis* which is most readily distinguished by its more obvious phyllode nerves, denser spikes, more deeply divided, white-villous calyx and pilose pods.

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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Minor edits by B.R.Maslin, J.Reid & J.Rogers

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



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