

# WATTLE

## Acacias of Australia

### *Vachellia bidwillii* (Benth.) Kodela



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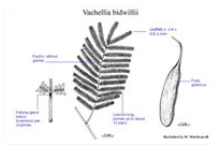
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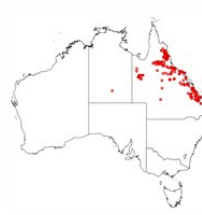
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See illustration.



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

### Common Name

Corkwood Wattle, Dogwood

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Common in the Burnett and Port Curtis districts of Qld, but ranging as far N as Mt Carbine and with a western disjunction in the Mount Isa area.

### Description

Shrub or tree 1.5–10 m high; branches sometimes **pendulous**. Bark corky, furrowed. Branchlets with scattered hairs to  $\pm$ glabrous, sometimes pubescent. Stipular spines to 2 mm long, often inconspicuous, to 12 mm long on young plants. Leaves: petiole 0.4–1 cm long, pubescent above, mostly with a raised gland at base of lowest pair of pinnae; rachis 1.5–9 (–12.5) cm long, sparsely to moderately pubescent mainly above, eglandular; pinnae (3–) 4–15 (–25) pairs, 0.6–4.2 cm long; pinnules (6–) 15–25 (–30) pairs, oblong to narrowly oblong or elliptic to narrowly elliptic, mostly 1–3.7 mm long and 0.5–1.1 mm wide, obtuse,  $\pm$ discolorous, ciliate usually only at base, with involucre of bracts 1/2–2/3 way above base; heads globular, 13–20-flowered, whitish to cream-coloured, sometimes pale yellow. Pods narrowly oblong to linear or narrowly elliptic, straight-sided or slightly constricted between some or all seeds, flat or slightly raised over seeds, 3–15 cm long, 8–16 (–19) mm wide, firmly crustaceous to coriaceous, longitudinally and often reticulately nerved, glabrous.

### Phenology

Flowers mainly Nov. and Dec., sometimes Apr.–Oct., also sporadic; fruits (Dec.–) Apr.–Oct.

### Habitat

Often occurs as a scattered understorey tree in grassy, open eucalypt woodland, as well as growing in open forest, Acacia woodland or sometimes shrubland, in clay, loam, sandy or stony soils, on plains or on valley floors, slopes and ridges in undulating to hilly country, and in skeletal soils on rocky slopes.

### Specimens

Qld: 9 miles [14.5 km] SSE of Yarrowmere Stn, L.Adams 986 (AD, BRI, CANB, K, NSW, PERTH); 8.2 km by road NNW of Many Peaks towards Nagoorin, R.G.Coveny 6848 & P.Hind (BRI, CANB, K, MEL, MO, NSW, PERTH); 13.2 km c. S of Lakeland Downs toward Palmer R., R.G.Coveny 6977 & P.Hind (BRI, CANB, K, MEL, NSW); 5 miles [8 km] SE of Batheaston HS, M.Lazarides & R.Story 77 (BRI, CANB, MEL, NSW); Gympie–Goomeri road, 31 Oct. 1960, M.D.Tindale s.n. (BRI, CANB, MEL, NSW, PERTH).

### Notes

*Acacia bidwillii* var. *polytricha* Domin, Biblioth. Bot. 89: 273, 1926 (T: Nord-Queensland: Savannenwalder bei Mungana, Feb. 1910, K.Domin; holo: PR *n.v.*), which is characterised by villous leaves, is treated by L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 6: 181 (2002) as a synonym of *A. bidwillii* where it is noted that its taxonomic status remains uncertain; it is treated as synonymous with *V. bidwillii* by P.G.Kodela & P.G.Wilson, *Telopea* 11: 234 (2006). Plants referable to this entity occur in low hilly country in the south-central part of Cape York Peninsula, Qld (e.g. J.R.Clarkson 3585, NSW, *n.v.*: BRI, DNA, ILL, K, MEL, MO, NSW, PERTH, PR, QRS; L.Pedley 1849, BRI *n.v.*, NSW), and its geographic range abuts that of *V. ditricha* which occurs in country of lower relief, *vide* L.Pedley, pers. comm.

The undescribed species from the Douglas-Daly Rivers area, N.T. referred to by P.G.Kodela, *Fl. Australia* 11A: 202 (2001) is now described as *V. douglasica*.

Based on molecular and other data *Acacia sens. lat.* is now considered as comprising a number of segregate genera, see J.T.Miller & D.S.Seigler, *Austral. Syst. Bot.* 25: 217–224 (2012) for overview. Many taxa in the former *Acacia* subg. *Acacia* are now referable to the genus *Vachellia*, including the one presented here.

A variable species requiring further systematic study. Specimens not included in the above description include S.L.Everist & L.S.Smith 206 from '10 miles past Duchess on Mount Isa Road' (BRI) which has pods to c. 21 cm long, and R.G.Coveny 6913 & P.Hind from '77 km by road NW of Marlborough towards St Lawrence' (BRI, CANB, DNA, K, MEL, MO, NSW, PERTH) which has rachises to 14.5 cm long with up to c. 40 pairs of pinnae. *Acacia leptoclada* var. *polyphylla* has well developed stipular spines to 6 mm long and leaves with smaller pinnules than usual, which are probably characteristics of juvenile plants, *vide* L.Pedley, pers. comm.

In J.W.Turnbull (ed.), *Multipurpose Austral. Trees & Shrubs* 112 (1986) there is an account of *V. bidwillii* (as *Acacia bidwillii*) before it was split into several species, while a more recent brief account is given in J.C.Doran & J.W.Turnbull (eds), *Austral. Trees & Shrubs: species for land rehabilitation & farm planting in the tropics* 346 (1997). The roots of young trees were roasted and eaten by Aborigines, and young plants may be browsed by cattle, *vide* E.Anderson, *Pl. Central Queensland* 22 (1993).

#### FOA Reference

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

#### Author

P.G.Kodala

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



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Study



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