

# WATTLE

## Acacias of Australia

### *Acacia acradenia* F.Muell.



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Source: Australian Plant Image Index (a.30912).  
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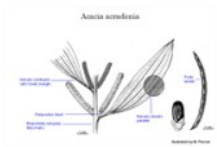
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Acacia acradenia occurrence map.  
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Common in the arid country of northern Australia from the Fortescue R. and Kimberley, W.A., across the N.T. eastwards to Prairie, Qld, as far as 25°S.

### Description

**Shrub** 1–4 (–7.5) m tall,  $\pm$ obconic and commonly spindly. Bark grey. **Branchlets** minutely appressed puberulous, the hairs often embedded in resin. Phyllodes mostly obliquely elliptic or narrowly elliptic, 4–12 (–16) cm long, 10–30 (–40) mm wide, rigid, acute to obtuse, minutely  $\pm$ velvety with hairs not visible to unaided eye, pale bluish green or milky pale green, multistriate, with minor nerves numerous (7–9 per mm) and not anastomosing, with 3 or more prominent nerves confluent near base. **Spikes** 2–6 (–7) cm long, orange or golden; peduncles 1–3 mm long, densely puberulous. **Flowers** 5-merous, resinous; **calyx** 0.9–1.2 mm long, dissected for 1/5–1/2, puberulous; **corolla** 1.8–2.2 mm long, dissected for c. 1/2, glabrous; **ovary** puberulous. **Pods** narrowly linear,  $\pm$ compressed-terete, not or scarcely constricted between the seeds, 4–9 (–13) cm long, 2.5–3.5 (–4) mm wide, thinly crustaceous, straight to slightly curved,  $\pm$ velvety to almost glabrous, reddish brown and often scurfy. **Seeds** longitudinal, narrowly oblong- to oblong-elliptic, 3–6 mm long, dark brown; **pleurogram** with yellowish halo; **areole**  $\pm$ open, depressed, olive-brown.

### Phenology

Flowers all year.

### Habitat

Grows in skeletal sandy soils and red earths, on laterite, sandstone or calcrete, on rocky hillsides or in gorges, often along creeks with eucalypts and spinifex. A relatively short-lived species that is killed by hot summer fires; it regenerates from seed and may form localized colonies in areas following disturbance.

### Specimens

W.A.: 8 miles [12.8 km] SW of Lamboo Stn, E Kimberley, *M.Lazarides* 6303 (CANB, NSW); 'Palm Springs', 11 km W of Millstream Stn, *A.N.Rodd* 2814 (NSW, TL). N.T.: Vaughan Springs, *G.Chippendale* 880 (DNA, NSW). Qld: 20 miles [32 km] SW of Cloncurry, *M.Lazarides* 4408 (CANB, NSW).

### Notes

Details of Aboriginal use of *A. acradenia* are given by P.Latz, *Bushfires & Bushtucker* 85 (1995).

The plate labelled '*Acacia acradenia*' by F.J.H. von Mueller, *Iconogr. Austral. Acacia* dec. 10 [pl. 4] (1888), is a mixture of two species; figs 1–8 represent *A. acradenia*

and 9–13 *A. umbellata*. These two species are frequently confused, although *A. acradenia* has longer corollas, longer pods, spikes (only rarely with a rudimentary shoot between them) borne in pairs in the phyllode axils, and appressed puberulous-pubescent branchlets, peduncles, rachises and part or most of phyllodes. A specimen from the McKinley Ra., S.A., (*viz.* 1876, *Sutherland*, NSW), which is much further south than all other records, suggests a possible outlier population or doubtful record that requires further investigation.

#### 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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Biological  
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Study



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