

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia alpina F.Muell.



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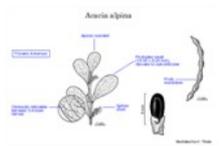
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Acacia alpina occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Alpine Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in woodlands and heathlands and on open plains in the Snowy Mtns, N.S.W. and southern A.C.T. and extends to Mt Baw Baw in the eastern highlands of Vic. where it is sometimes locally common.

Description

Shrub 1–2 m high and 1–10 m wide, sometimes almost **prostrate**, tangled. Branchlets **glabrous**. Stipules **caducous**, **deltate**, 0.5–1 mm long. Phyllodes normally **obovate** or suborbicular commonly asymmetrical, 1.5–3.5 (–4.5) cm long, 8–25 (–27) mm wide, with a **rounded** (not **mucronulate**), **straight**, occasionally **emarginate** apex, **coriaceous**, dull green to dull grey-green or greyish; primary nerves 2–4; secondary nerves **anastomosing** and conspicuous; **gland** small or obscure, 2–9 mm above **phyllode axil**; **pulvinus** present. Inflorescences with peduncles 1–4 mm long and **glabrous**; receptacles **glabrous**; spikes solitary or twinned, **oblong** or **cylindrical**, 5–15 mm long, **interrupted**, pale yellow, sometimes bright yellow; bracteoles cymbiform, 0.4–1 mm long, 0.3–0.8 mm wide. Flowers **4-merous**; sepals united. Pods submoniliform or occasionally **linear**, gently **curved** or **coiled**, thin-walled, 3–8 cm long, 3–6 mm wide. Seeds narrowly **elliptic**, 3.5–5 mm long; **funicle** folded 3–8 times; **aril turbinate**.

Habitat

It occurs most frequently in granitic tracts and seems to be confined to habitats between 1300 and 1800 m altitude. Sometimes it thrives well in windswept areas and occasionally forms impenetrable thickets.

Specimens

N.S.W.: below Blue Cow, Mt. Kosciusko area, *M.Gray & C.J.Totterdell 6456* (CANB, MEL). A.C.T.: Sentry Box Hill, *I.R.Telford 8589* (CANB, NSW). Vic.: Mt St Bernard, Jan. 1900, *J.H.Maiden s.n.* (HO, NSW); The Big Plain, 3 km NW of Mt Wellington, *T.B.Muir 3737* (MEL).

Notes

A member of the '*A. longifolia* group' related to *A. phlebophylla* with which it sometimes putatively hybridizes in Vic., e.g. at Mt Buffalo where it co-occurs with both parents (*N.G.Walsh 5163*, MEL). *Acacia alpina* is distinctive on account of its ovate or suborbicular phyllodes, its low, intricate and tangled habit and its preference for alpine and subalpine habitats.

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



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and Attractions
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Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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