

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia aphanoclada Maslin



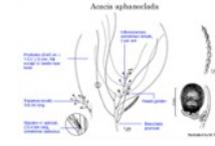
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Acacia aphanoclada occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Nullagine Ghost Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

A rare species known only from near Nullagine, north-western W.A.

Description

Wispy **glabrous shrub** 3–6 m high, crown sparse, the terminal branches with tendency to droop. **Branchlets** very slender, **pruinose**. **Stipules** \pm erect, \pm spinose, sometimes absent, 2.5–4 mm long. Phyllodes narrowly **linear**, \pm terete near base otherwise flat to **compressed**, (10–) 20–45 cm long, 1.5–2 (–3) mm wide but on sucker regrowth they may reach up to 10 mm across, **acuminate**, sometimes **pungent** (the points normally break off with age), flexible; **midrib** not prominent; **gland** 2–6 mm above base. Inflorescences **racemose**, occasionally **simple**; **raceme axes** 5–9 (–18) cm long; peduncles mostly twinned, 1–2 cm long, slender, with **caducous bract** above middle; heads **globular**, densely 70–90-flowered, golden. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals free, narrowly **spathulate**. Pods **narrowly oblong**, **straight-edged** or constricted between seeds, 6–7 cm long, 6–8 mm wide, \pm firmly **chartaceous**, **pruinose** at least when young. Seeds \pm **longitudinal**, **oblong** to widely **ovate** or almost **globose**, 4–5 mm long, \pm dull, brown, often yellowish near **pleurogram**; **aril** \pm clavate.

Phenology

Flowers Aug.–Oct.

Habitat

Grows on rocky hills (of mostly Mosquito Creek geological sediment and conglomerate) in spinifex (*Triodia* sp.) country with scattered *Eucalyptus* sp. and *Acacia* sp.

Specimens

W.A.: 9 km S of Nullagine, *A.S.George 15716* (MEL, PERTH); c. 5 km N of Nullagine on Great Northern Hwy, *B.R.Maslin 4957* (NSW, PERTH).

Notes

The stipules and phyllode apices are slender and often \pm pungent, but they are brittle and, on the phyllodes especially, commonly break off with age.

Readily distinguished from other members of the '*A. victoriae* group' by its characteristic wispy habit comprising very slender, single stems (to 2 cm d.b.h.) and open crowns with very long, narrow, pendulous phyllodes. These characters are similar to those of *A. araneosa*, a member of the '*A. microbotrya* group' from the Flinders Ra., S.A., and *A. spectra* from the Kimberley region, W.A. *Acacia aphanoclada* occasionally hybridizes with *A. pyriformis* var. *pyriformis* (see *A. aphanoclada* \times *pyriformis* var. *pyriformis*).

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