

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia areolata M.W.McDonald



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.
Published at: www.worldwidewattle.com
Photomicrograph of PERTH specimen (B.R. Maslin)



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.
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See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Endemic to the northern Kimberley region, extending from Cape Londonderry S to the Carson Escarpment, W.A.

Description

Spreading **shrub** commonly 2–4 m tall, occasionally **tree** to 8 m, rarely **prostrate**. Bark **fissured**, grey-brown. New shoots **resinous**, rusty-brown, **glabrous**. Branchlets slightly flattened at extremities becoming **terete**, **glabrous**, grey or reddish, often **pruinose**. Phyllodes commonly **straight** and dimidiately **elliptic** to narrowly **elliptic** or **ovate-elliptic** but sometimes slightly subfalcately **recurved**, infrequently **straight** and symmetrically broad-**elliptic**, 6–12 (–16) cm long, (14–) 20–40 (–50) mm wide, **glabrous**, green or **pruinose**, with 3–5 prominent **longitudinal** veins, the minor veins numerous **anastomosing** to form a distinct, net-like **reticulum** comprising \pm **oblong** to **narrowly oblong** (rarely isodiametric), **longitudinal nerve**-islands; **gland** basal, obscure. Inflorescences 1–2 (–3) per **axil**, **simple** or occasionally a few short-**racemose**; peduncles **glabrous**, **scurfy**, spikes 2–4.5 cm long, flowers densely arranged, yellow. Flowers 5-**merous**; **calyx** deeply lobed, **villous**; **ovary pubescent**. Pods **narrowly oblong** to **oblong**, **straight**, 2.5–7.5 cm long, 9–15 mm wide, \pm flat, longitudinally furrowed when dry, **glabrous**, often **pruinose**. Seeds transverse to **oblique**, broadly **elliptic**, laterally **compressed**, 6–7 mm long, black; **pleurogram lateral**, with indistinct halo; **areole oblong-elliptic**, open.

Phenology

Flowers mainly in June.

Habitat

Grows in open woodlands mainly on laterite and sandstone substrates.

Specimens

W.A.: 24 km S of Mitchell Plateau turn-off, *B.Barnsley 1561* (NSW, PERTH); Euro Gorge, Drysdale R. Natl Park, *K.F.Kenneally 4383* (BRI, PERTH); 5.1 km W along Mitchell Plateau Rd, *M.McDonald 329* (PERTH); 8.9 km NE of Pago near Kalumburu, *M.McDonald 1887* (BRI, PERTH).

Notes

This taxon was treated as *A. aff. retinervis* by M.W.McDonald in B.R.Maslin (coordinator), *WATTLE Acacias of Australia* CD-ROM (2001), and noted under *A. retinervis* as a variant of uncertain rank by M.W.McDonald & P.G.Kodala, *Fl. Austral.* 11B: 189 (2001).

Acacia areolata is a member of the '*A. tumida* group' that is closely related to, and commonly confused with, the parapatric *A. retinervis* which is distinguished in the following ways: pods sub-terete to compressed and narrower (6–8 mm wide), branchlets never pruinose, mature phyllodes falcate to subfalcate (seemingly dimidiate only on juvenile plants), generally narrower (mostly 8–20 mm wide) and with normally less prominent anastomosing minor nerves that form narrower, more clearly elongated, but normally less well-circumscribed nerve-islands (phyllodes rarely developing a net-like reticulum that characterizes *A. areolata*).

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:



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