

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia argyrophylla* Hook.



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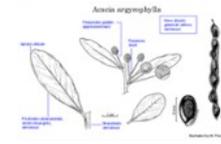
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Acacia argyrophylla occurrence map.  
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

### Common Name

Silver Mulga

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Occurs in S.A. from the Flinders Ranges near Hawker S to Monarto and the western Murray mallee region, with isolated populations occurring on the Yorke Peninsula and Onkaparinga Gorge. An isolated occurrence from near Coromby, Vic., is now presumed extinct, *vide* A.B.Court, in J.H.Willis, *Handb. Pl. Victoria* 2: 222 (1973).

### Description

Dense shrub 2–3 m high and often the same in diam., closely allied to *A. dictyocarpa* but differing mainly in the following ways: New shoots **sericeous** with bright greenish yellow hairs. Penultimate **branchlets sericeous** with white hairs. Phyllodes **oblanceolate**, 2.5–5 (–6) cm long, 6–15 (–25) mm wide, sometimes to 6 cm long and 2.5 cm wide at base of **branchlets**, lw = 2–4.5, **obtusely** silvery blue-grey due to **sericeous indumentum** of silvery white hairs completely covering the **lamina**. Inflorescences **racemose** with **axes** normally (1–) 4–10 (–35) mm long and with **dense appressed** greenish golden hairs; peduncles (5–) 7–15 (–19) mm long, with **indumentum** as on racemes except hairs occasionally silvery white; heads 25–45-flowered. Pods 7–10 (–15) mm wide. Seeds 5–7 mm long.

### Habitat

It grows on low hills and slopes in woodland and mallee, often in alkaline soils.

### Specimens

S.A.: Loxton, *T.R.N.Lothian s.n.* (AD9620781); 1.5 km N of Monarto South on the road to Monarto, *B.R.Maslin 5974* (AD, K, PERTH); 36.3 km E of Kimba, *J.G. & M.H.Simmons 1140* (AD); Onkaparinga Recreation Park, *R.Taplin 370* (AD, PERTH); 32 km NE of Hawker, *R.F.Telfer 6* (AD); near Minlaton, *D.J.E.Whibley 6200* (AD). Vic.: near Coromby, 5 Oct. 1892, *F.Reader 3* (MEL).

### Notes

Notes on biological and ecological features, and utilisation potential, of *A. argyrophylla* are provided in B.R.Maslin and M.W.McDonald, *AcaciaSearch: Evaluation of Acacia as a woody crop option for southern Australia*, RIRDC Publication No. 03/017, 40–43 (2004).

The status of *A. argyrophylla* deserves further attention. J.H.Maiden, *Forest Fl. New South Wales* 6(3): 47, pl. 2000 (1914), treated it as a variety of *A. brachybotrya*, but later considered it a distinct species, *vide J. & Proc. Roy. Soc. New South Wales* 53: 202 (1920).

As defined here, *A. argyrophylla* is narrowly circumscribed. It is a member of the '*A. brachybotrya* group' and is most readily distinguished from *A. dictyocarpa* by generally longer phyllodes which are densely clothed with silky appressed hairs (bright greenish yellow on new shoots, silvery white on mature phyllodes). Some specimens of *A. dictyocarpa*, especially those from the Yorke Peninsula, S.A., may possess certain of these characters but they do not occur in combination as in *A. argyrophylla*. However, in some cases hybridity between the two species is suspected. Related to *A. brachybotrya* which is most reliably distinguished by its patent branchlet hairs and generally shorter phyllodes.

*Acacia semiaurea* may be a hybrid involving, perhaps, *A. retinodes* and *A. argyrophylla* or *A. dictyocarpa*; see note under *A. dictyocarpa*. Also, scattered hybrids between *A. argyrophylla* and *A. euthycarpa* occur in areas where the geographic ranges of these two species overlap.

#### FOA Reference

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

#### Author

Edited by B.R.Maslin

B.R.Maslin

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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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