

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia auricoma* Maslin



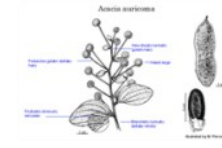
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Image courtesy of Northern Territory Herbarium



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Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.  
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*Acacia auricoma* occurrence map.  
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living  
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

### Common Name

Alumaru, Nyalpilintji or Petermann Wattle

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Occurs at Anne Ra., W.A., and E from Bloods Ra. to the Petermann Ra., N.T.

### Description

Rather straggly shrub 1.5–3 m high. Branchlets terete, minutely stellate-velvety, rarely glabrous. New shoots usually golden-hairy. Stipules 1–1.5 mm long. Phyllodes inequilaterally elliptic, 3–10 cm long, 1.5–4 cm wide, rotund-obtuse, coriaceous, subglaucous, usually minutely stellate-velvety, with 3–5 raised main nerves (some confluent with lower margin for c. 1 cm above pulvinus), prominently reticulate; gland basal, with 2–4 additional glands in shallow notches along upper margin. Inflorescences simple but forming terminal 'false' racemes by phyllode suppression; peduncles mostly 2 per axil, 15–30 mm long and golden stellate-hairy, stout, furrowed; heads globular, 7–8 mm diam., densely 100–135-flowered, golden. Flowers 5-merous; sepals 1/4–1/2-united, with lobes densely golden-puberulous; petals apically golden-puberulous. Pods narrowly oblong, ±flat, to 8 cm long, 15–25 mm wide, firmly chartaceous to thinly coriaceous, transversely reticulate, stellate-puberulous; margins narrowly winged. Seeds transverse, oblong to elliptic-oblong, 5.5–6.5 mm long, dull, dark brown; aril terminal.

### Habitat

Grows in skeletal soil on quartzite scree slopes in open shrubland with spinifex.

### Specimens

W.A.: near E end of Anne Ra., *A.S.George 12094* (PERTH). N.T.: Shaw R., East Petermann Ra., *W.H.Butler 7* (PERTH); Mannanana Ra., Petermann Aboriginal Reserve, *T.S.Henshall 2146* (PERTH); Livingstone Pass, Docker R., *S.J.Midgley 554* (PERTH).

### Notes

Most closely related to *A. retivenea*, which lacks the golden hairy new shoots, peduncles, bracteoles, sepals and petals normally characteristic of *A. auricoma*; furthermore, *A. retivenea* has larger stipules and branchlets and phyllodes with a crispate-villose or tomentose indumentum, not minutely stellate-velvety as in *A. auricoma*. Rare glabrous variants occur in both species. Stellate pubescence occurs also in a few related northern species such as *A. flavescens*, *A. leptoloba* and *A. sericata*, all of which are distinguished by their racemose inflorescences.

One fruiting collection, *S.J.Midgley 554* (PERTH), is aberrant in being glabrous throughout but in other respects appears to represent the species.

### FOA Reference

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

### Author

R.S.Cowan, B.R.Maslin

Minor edits by J.Rogers

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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