

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia bivenosa* DC.



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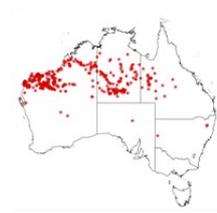
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Acacia bivenosa occurrence map.  
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

### Common Name

Nerved Wattle, Hill Umbrella Bush

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Widespread in the arid zone of W.A., N.T. and western Qld, N of 25°S, with an outlier on Dorre Is., Shark Bay, W.A.

## Description

**Shrub** normally 1–3 m high, rarely **prostrate**, usually **dense** and **glabrous**. Bark smooth and light grey to medium grey. **Branchlets** often slightly **pruinose**. Phyllodes variable, usually narrowly **elliptic** to **oblong-elliptic** or **obovate**, usually 2–5 cm long and 6–25 mm wide with l:w = 2–5, with **incurved** to **straight mucro**, thin to subfleshy, green or **glaucous**, usually 2-nerved per face; glands commonly 3, with lowermost prominent and 2–12 mm above **pulvinus**, and **distal** glands smaller with one commonly adjacent to **mucro**. Inflorescences 6–7-headed racemes, mostly growing out with subsequent inflorescences **simple**; **raceme axes** 2–4 cm long; peduncles (10–) 15–35 (–45) mm long; heads **globular**, subdense, normally 16–23-flowered, deep golden; buds bright green. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals united into a  $\pm$ **truncate calyx**. Pods  $\pm$ **erect** and submoniliform (breaking readily at constrictions between seeds), to 8 cm long, 5–8 (–10) mm wide, firmly **crustaceous** to subwoody, light brown. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong-elliptic**, 4–6 mm long, glossy, dark brown; **aril** red or orange.

## Phenology

Flowers May–Oct.

## Habitat

Grows in a variety of soils, including coastal sand, and on rocky hillsides and gullies, in shrubland, open shrubland and open woodland, often associated with spinifex.

## Specimens

W.A.: c. 10.5 km S of Yardie Ck HS towards Ningaloo, *B.R.Maslin 4752* (BRI, CANB, K, PERTH); Dorre Is., *A.S.Weston 10525* (PERTH). N.T.: gorge near Mt Liebig, *G.Chippendale 3541* (BRI, DNA); 64.4 km W of Alexandria Stn, *R.A.Perry 1565* (BRI, DNA, PERTH). Qld: c. 40 km N of Jundah, *K.P.Nicolson 301* (BRI).

## Notes

A.R.Chapman & B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 8: 249–283 (1992), define and discuss the informal 'A. *bivenosa* group' which comprises the following 12 species, *A. amplexes*, *A. bivenosa*, *A. cupularis*, *A. didyma*, *A. ligulata*, *A. rostelifera*, *A. salicina*, *A. sclerosperma*, *A. startii*, *A. telmica*, *A. tysonii* and *A. xanthina*. In the Pilbara region of W.A. *A. bivenosa* hybridizes with *A. amplexes* (see *A. amplexes* × *bivenosa*) and *A. sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma* (see *A. bivenosa* × *sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma*).

As discussed by A.R.Chapman & B.R.Maslin, *loc. cit.*, *A. bivenosa* is a variable species, especially with respect to growth form and phyllode morphology. The phyllodes are often distinctly 2-nerved, but on plants with very narrow phyllodes and on many plants from N.T. and Qld, the second nerve can be reduced and obscure or even absent. In north-western W.A. a number of variants are recognised: plants from the Hamersley Ra. and on islands of the Dampier Archipelago have generally narrower than normal (mostly 5–12 mm wide with l:w = 3–8), narrowly elliptic to oblanceolate phyllodes (e.g. between Tom Price and the Wittenoom-Nanutarra road, *B.R.Maslin 4667*, PERTH); plants from Airlie Is. and Thevenard Is. have atypically long (normally 4–9 cm), 1- or 2-nerved phyllodes (e.g. *V.Long 165*, PERTH); at Dampier and in the Tom Price-Newman area a variant with a distinctive weeping habit is common (e.g. Burrup Penin., N of Dampier, *B.R.Maslin 4740*, BRI, PERTH). The sympatric occurrence of plants with green phyllodes and those with glaucous phyllodes is not unusual and has no taxonomic significance. Occasional plants from W.A., N.T. and Qld have puberulous branchlets and raceme axes.

G.Bentham's concept of *A. bivenosa* included *A. xanthina* (*Drummond 1: 283, Preiss 928*) and *A. didyma* (*Dirk Hartog Is., [A.]Cunningham [330]*), *vide* A.R.Chapman & B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 8: 249–283 (1992). However, *A. bivenosa* is readily distinguished from these two more southerly distributed species by the more elongate phyllodes of *A. xanthina* and wider pods of *A. didyma*. Often sympatric with *A. startii*. Closely related to and sometimes difficult to distinguish from *A. ligulata* (possibly due to hybridisation), particularly in south-central N.T. where they are partially sympatric.

In the Pilbara *A. bivenosa* is used extensively in land rehabilitation. It is generally killed by fire and regenerates from seed although under very cool burn conditions large plants may regenerate from root stock close to the base of the parent plant. *Acacia bivenosa* can be heavily grazed by livestock, especially at the seedling stage. Indigenous people obtained edible grubs from the roots.

## FOA Reference

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

## Author

Minor edits by B.R.Maslin & J.Rogers

A.R.Chapman, B.R.Maslin

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



Australian Government  
Department of the Environment and Energy



Department of  
Biodiversity, Conservation  
and Attractions  
Western Australian Herbarium



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