

# WATTLE

## Acacias of Australia

### *Acacia caesaneura* Maslin & J.E.Reid



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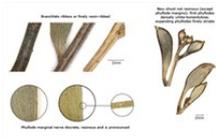
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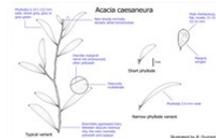
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*Acacia caesaneura* occurrence map.  
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

### Common Name

Western Blue Mulga

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Endemic in W.A. with most collections from an area bounded approximately by Yalgoo, Meekatharra, Lorna Glen Stn (c. 150 km ENE of Wiluna), Laverton and Kalgoorlie; the most easterly record is Kanandah Stn (c. 330 km E of Kalgoorlie) on the northern edge of the Nullarbor Plain.

### Description

Multi-stemmed shrub maturing to shapely, obconic tree 3–8 (–10) m high, crowns dense and silvery bluish grey, grey or grey-green tinged blue. Branchlets densely appressed-pubescent between rather obscure resinous ribs towards apices, the resin normally not well-developed; new shoots not or scarcely resinous, the youngest phyllodes densely tomentulose (hairs usually white) except for dark-coloured, resinous marginal nerve, sometimes (in narrow-phyllode variant) indumentum less prominent with hairs confined to between longitudinal nerves. Phyllodes variable, straight and dimidiate to falcately recurved, commonly narrowly oblong to elliptic, not rigid, (2–) 3–7 (–8) cm long, (2–) 2.5–10 (–12) mm wide, longitudinal nerves numerous and often appressed-hairy between, broadest phyllodes sometimes felty, marginal nerve resinous but often not especially prominent, the resin normally milky white or yellow (sometimes light brown on oldest phyllodes). Inflorescences simple; peduncles 2–10 mm long, often densely appressed-hairy; spikes 10–20 mm long. Flowers 5-merous; sepals ½ or slightly more than ½ length of petals. Pods oblong, 1.5–3.5 (–4.5) cm long, (7–) 10–15 (–20) mm wide including wings 1–2 (–2.5) mm, firmly chartaceous, flat, greyish brown, obscurely reticulate. Seeds oblique to transverse, 4–6 (–7) mm long, 2–3 (–3.5) mm wide, oblong to ±elliptic; aril small and whitish.

### Habitat

Commonly grows on plains or in gently undulating country in red-brown sandy loam to clay, often over hardpan at a relatively shallow depth, in mixed *Acacia* shrubland or woodland communities dominated by Mulga species (especially *A. incurvaneura*).

### Specimens

W.A.: 8 km ENE of Yuinmery HS, *J.Dell JD46* (PERTH); 10 miles [16 km] E of Paynesville, *J.W.Green 1626* (PERTH); western boundary of Kanandah Stn, *G.J.Keighery & J.J.Alford 562* (PERTH); 66 km W of Sandstone on road to Mt Magnet, *B.R.Maslin & J.E.Reid BRM 9753* (CANB, K, MEL); c. 55 km S of Laverton, around dining area Anglogolds Sunrise Dam Mine camp, *B.R.Maslin & J.E.Reid BRM 9699* (CANB, K, MEL, PERTH: narrow-phyllode variant).

### Notes

*Acacia caesaneura* is a member of the '*A. aneura* group' (Mulga) recognized by a combination of its usually non-resinous, tomentulose new shoots, reduced branchlet resin and relatively large, straight and dimidiate or falcately recurved (never incurved) phyllodes. It is closely related to *A. incurvaneura* which normally has narrower, incurved phyllodes; these two species are commonly sympatric and putative hybrids/intergrades are common. Also related to *A. mulganeura* which has very resinous new shoots, straight (never recurved), symmetrical (never dimidiate) phyllodes that are often shorter, smaller sepals and bracteoles, generally narrower pods and is commonly of lower stature; possible hybrids/intergrades between these two species are noted under *A. mulganeura*. The narrow-phyllode variants of *A. caesaneura* and *A. ayersiana* can sometimes be difficult to separate; the most reliable way to distinguish them is the shorter sepals relative to the petals in the latter species, see

B.R.Maslin and J.E.Reid, *Nuytsia* 22(4): 190–198 (2012), for further discussion.

A very variable species in need of further study. Juvenile phyllodes are rather short, straight and dimidiate; mature phyllodes are longer and falcately recurved; individual plants may have one or other of these shapes, or a mixture of the two, depending upon their age; some adult plants (5 m or more high) have only the juvenile phyllode form. *Acacia caesaneura* varies considerably in phyllode width, with two main variants recognized: the typical variant has phyllodes 6–10 (–15) mm wide but a narrow-phyllode variant (2–6 mm wide) is scattered throughout the geographic range and is commonly sympatric with the typical variant; see B.R.Maslin & J.E.Reid, *loc. cit.*, for discussion. Resin on branchlet ribs is normally poorly developed (sometimes absent); it is typically opaque but is occasionally interspersed with patches of translucent resin. Colour of new shoot indumentum is normally white but in eastern part of the range it is occasionally very pale yellow, e.g. *P.G.Wilson* 7497 (c. 65 km NNE of Leonora).

This taxon was treated as *A. aneura* var. *argentea* by L.Pedley, *Fl. Australia* 11B: 322 (2001), but B.R.Maslin & J.E.Reid, *loc. cit.*, consider it warrants recognition as a distinct species. The specimen A.A. *Burbidge* 4 cited by L.Pedley, *loc. cit.*, cited under *A. aneura* var. *argentea* is *A. mulganeura*.

It is sometimes difficult to distinguish *A. caesaneura* from *A. ayersiana*: see *A. ayersiana* for discussion.

#### FOA Reference

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

#### Author

L.Pedley

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



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Department of the Environment and Energy



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Australian  
Biological  
Resources  
Study



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