

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia comans W.Fitzg.



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.
Published at: www.worldwidewattle.com
See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs from the Geraldton area to SW of Coorow, W.A.

Description

Spreading shrub 0.3–2 m high. Branchlets terete, slightly ribbed, ±densely puberulous to pubescent with straight spreading hairs. Stipules persistent, acicular, 1.5–2.3 mm long. Phyllodes sessile, patent, widely elliptic to oblong, inequilateral, 3.5–9 mm long, 1.5–5 mm wide, pungent, rigid; main nerves 3 or 4, distant, raised, sparsely to densely hairy or glabrous; gland on upper margin, 1.5–3.5 (–6) mm from base. Inflorescences simple, 1 or 2 per axil; peduncles 5–15 mm long, normally glabrous; heads usually globular, 4–4.5 mm diam., 25–36-flowered, yellow. Flowers 5-merous; sepals free. Pods linear, raised over seeds, straight, to 4.5 cm long, 4–5 mm wide, coriaceous, with indumentum usually as on branchlets, normally with a faint light-coloured longitudinal midline on each valve. Seeds longitudinal, broadly oval to subcircular, turgid, ±3 mm long, mottled, brown; aril subapical to lateral, helmet-shaped.

Habitat

Grows in sandy soil.

Specimens

W.A.: Ebbano Well, E from Mingenew, 20 Sept. 1904, *A.Morrison s.n.* (NSW, PERTH); 11 km SW from Three Springs on road to Eneabba, *B.R.Maslin 6415* (MEL, PERTH); 40 km from Brand Hwy towards Coorow, *R.Cumming 1318* (PERTH).

Notes

Acacia comans is close to *A. latipes*, which differs in having caducous stipules and normally longer phyllodes, and to *A. adnata*, from which it is distinguished (perhaps somewhat arbitrarily) by its patent branchlet hairs and normally pilose pods (but see variants below). One specimen (*B.R.Maslin 6586*, PERTH) has obloid heads and another (*F.W.Went 230*, PERTH) has immature pods which are sparsely appressed-hairy.

The above description does not take into account the following two variants which, although seemingly referable to *A. comans* as currently understood, need to be reassessed in the light of additional fruiting material and also a reassessment of *A. latipes* (which as currently defined is exceedingly polymorphic). The variants are distinguished by a number of features.

The first variant has branchlets with spreading hairs; phyllodes generally bigger (5–14 mm long), with the young phyllode nerves or margins shortly hairy, often glabrescent; pods sparsely appressed-hairy when young, glabrous at maturity. This variant is close to some forms of *A. latipes*, from which it differs in its ±persistent stipules. It occurs in the Moresby Ra., N of Geraldton and 16 km N of Northampton, W.A. (e.g. Howatharra Hill Reserve, Moresby Ra., *D. & N.McFarland 1004*, PERTH).

The second variant has branchlets with appressed indumentum; phyllodes relatively long and narrow, 5–15 mm × 1.5–2.5 mm, glabrous; pods unknown. It is very close to some forms of *A. latipes*, from which it differs in its persistent stipules. It occurs between 75 and 160 km N of Geraldton, W.A. (e.g. c. 16 km S of Murchison R. on North West Coastal Hwy, *B.R.Maslin 2790*, BRI, NY, PERTH).

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:



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