

# WATTLE

## Acacias of Australia

### *Acacia daphnifolia* Meisn.



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See illustration.



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

### Common Name

Northern Manna Wattle

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Occurs in the northern wheatbelt region of south-western W.A. from Cataby Brook (c. 40 km E Moora), near Watheroo and the Manmanning–Bencubbin area N through Mullewa to the Murchison R. near Ajana (c. 100 km N of Geraldton).

### Description

**Shrub** or **tree** 2.5–4 m high, normally multistemmed, often **clonal** by root-suckering. Bark light grey, mostly smooth. **Branchlets** **glabrous**. Phyllodes normally **patent**, sometimes **sub-pendulous**, **oblanceolate** to narrowly **elliptic** or sometimes **narrowly oblong-elliptic**, **straight** to shallowly **recurved**, (4–) 6–10 cm long, (4–) 6–15 (–27) mm wide, broadest phyllodes are on sucker regrowth, **obtusely acuminately**, thinly **coriaceous**, **glaucous** to subglaucous or dull green, **glabrous**, 1-nerved per face, finely **penninerved**; **gland** not prominent, (4–) 7–20 (–27) mm above **pulvinus**. Inflorescences **racemose**; **raceme axes** 1.5–5 cm long, densely **appressed-puberulous** with light golden or silvery white hairs that are often sparse or absent at base of **axes**; peduncles 2–4 mm long, to 6 (–7) mm in fruit, **indumentum** as on **raceme axes**; heads **globular**, 3–4 mm diam. (dry), 17–30-flowered, golden, showy, delicately fragrant; **bracteole** laminae **fimbriolate**. Flowers 5-**merous**, sepals united. Pods **moniliform** to submoniliform, 8–20 cm long, 7–9 (–10) mm wide, thinly **coriaceous**, dark brown to blackish (dry), **glabrous**. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong** to **elliptic**, 7–9 mm long, 5–5.5 mm wide, dull or slightly shiny, minutely **verruculose**, dark brown to black, ½ to wholly encircled by creamy white (fresh) or light- to mid-brown (dry), slender **funicle**; **aril** **clavate**.

### Phenology

Flowers late April–mid-July.

### Habitat

Grows in flat or low-undulating country where it often occurs in lower parts of the landscape in water-gaining sites. Commonly grows in association with granite and favours sandy loam or clay-loam soils. It often occurs on degraded road verges where it commonly forms localized clonal clumps.

### Specimens

W.A.: c. 4 miles [6.4 km] W of Mullewa, *A.M.Ashby 4640* (CANB, K, NY, PERTH); Ajana, *D.Bellairs 1621* (PERTH); Cataby Brook, Brand Hwy, *B.R.Maslin 6033* (PERTH); 23.5 km NE of Wubin on Great Northern Hwy (just E of Rabbit Proof Fence Rd), B.R. Maslin 8190H-J (all PERTH); 8 km E of Lynton Stn on Northampton to Port Gregory rd, *R.A.Saffrey 1522* (CANB, K, MEL, PERTH).

## Notes

*Acacia daphnifolia* is a member of the '*Acacia microbotrya* group' closely related to the more southerly distributed *A. microbotrya* which differs most obviously in its taller stature, pale-coloured heads and generally longer phyllodes that are often less glaucous and have a greater propensity to droop; the distributions of the two species overlap in the area from near Moora E to through Wongan Hills to near Bencubbin and here it can be difficult assigning specimens to one species or the other. Also close to the more northerly distributed *A. amblyophylla* which is distinguished by its broader pods and a combination of its oblanceolate, obtuse, green, rather narrow phyllodes, and by its more aggressively suckering habit. Also related to *A. splendens*.

Phyllodes are very variable as to size, curvature and the shape of their apices. It appears that juvenile phyllodes are relatively short (about 4–6 cm long), often oblanceolate, ±straight and obtuse to sub-acute; adult phyllodes are longer (about 7–10 cm), ±narrowly elliptic, shallowly recurved and acute to acuminate. Both these phyllode forms (and many intermediates between them) have been observed in biologically mature plants, some of which are presumably neotenous.

This species was treated as conspecific with *A. microbotrya* by B.R.Maslin, *Fl. Australia* 11A: 284 (2001), but unpublished studies by that author indicate it is appropriate to be treated as a distinct species.

## FOA Reference

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

## Author

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  
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Australian  
Biological  
Resources  
Study



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