

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia fraternalis Maslin



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs near Norseman and Higginsville (now-abandoned township about halfway between Widgiemooltha and Norseman) with outlier at Cundeelee Mission (c. 120 km due NE of Higginsville), W.A.

Description

Obconic shrub 1–3 (–5) m tall. New shoots **resinous**. Branchlets **glabrous** except often sparsely and minutely **appressed-hairy** at apices. Phyllodes **terete** to flat, mostly **ascending** to **erect**, not **rigid**, narrowly **linear**, normally shallowly **incurved**, 60–100 (–120) mm long, 0.5–1.5 (–2) mm wide, short-**acuminate** with delicate, **curved** and **innocuous** tips, **glabrous**; **longitudinal** nerves numerous, often rather indistinct. Inflorescences 1–2 (–3)-headed racemes; **raceme axes** 1–10 (–20) mm long, often terminated by vegetative bud or growing out when heads are in bud; peduncles 4–9 mm long, sparsely to moderately **appressed hairy**, occasionally **glabrous**; heads **globular**, 3.5–5 mm diam., 20–30-flowered, light golden, often **resinous** in bud. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals free. Pods **narrowly oblong** to broadly **linear**, 30–60 mm long, 7–10 mm wide, firmly **chartaceous**, mostly shallowly **curved**, often slightly **undulate**, obviously raised over seeds alternately on either side, \pm **glabrous**, nerveless or obscurely transversely nerved. Seeds transverse to **oblique** in pods, **obloid** to **ellipsoid** or **ovoid**, 3–3.5 mm long,; **aril clavate** to **oblong** and 1/4–1/3(–1/2) as long as seed.

Phenology

Flowers: Nov.–June; mature pods often co-occur with the inflorescences.

Habitat

Commonly occurs in clay, sandy clay or sandy loam on the slopes of granite and/or basalt hills in very open low woodland and Mallee heath with *Triodia* ground cover or open *Eucalyptus* woodland (that includes *E. lesouefii*) and tall shrubland dominated by *Acacia acuminata*; the Cundeelee plant occurred on red sand.

Notes

Most closely related to *A. warramaba* which is distinguished by having consistently flat (never terete) phyllodes that are broader and commonly shorter, and more numerous flowers per head. Also has some affinities with *A. papyrocarpa* that has clearly appressed-puberulous new shoots with hairs persisting on mature phyllodes, flat, openly reticulately nerved pods and larger, longitudinal seeds. See B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 24: 158 (2014) for further discussion.

The phyllodes on specimens from the vicinity of Higginsville are consistently flat but elsewhere they are terete to sub-terete.

Author

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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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