

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia fuscaneura Maslin & J.E.Reid



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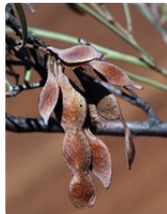
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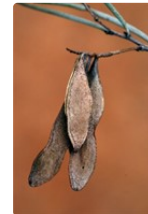
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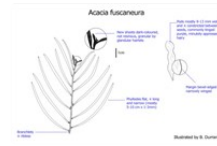
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Acacia fuscaneura occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Sooty Mulga

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Endemic in W.A. where it extends from the Pilbara region S to Paynes Find and E to near Wiluna and Laverton; an outlier occurs on Carbla Stn in the Shark Bay district.

Description

Obconic tree 3–8 (–10) m high sometimes with a pseudo-conifer (adolescent plants) or rarely a conifer growth form. Bark charcoal grey to blackish. **Branchlets** obscurely ribbed or ribless, ribs normally not **resinous**; new shoots not **resinous**, with a **dense** layer of dark-coloured (often blackish) glandular hairlets that persist (becoming **scattered**) as shoot expands and imparting a fine, granular appearance to the young phyllodes and **branchlets**. Phyllodes **sub-straight** to shallowly **curved**, **sigmoid** or wavy, narrowly **linear** or sometimes narrowly **elliptic**, not **rigid**, flat, 5–10 (–12) cm long, 1–3 (–5) mm wide, green to grey-green (often **sub-glaucous** when young), finely multistriate with obscure **appressed** hairs between the nerves, margins normally not **resinous**; **gland** normally 0–2 mm above **pulvinus**. Inflorescences **simple**; peduncles (4–) 5–12 (–15) mm long. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals free or shortly united at base, $\frac{1}{3}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ length of petals, **oblong** to **narrowly oblong**; petals 1.3–1.5 mm long. Pods **oblong** to **narrowly oblong**, mostly shallowly to moderately constricted between the seeds, (1–) 2–5 (–6.5) cm long, (6–) 8–13 mm wide including wings (when present), thinly **coriaceous**, commonly greyish brown but often tinged purplish, minutely **appressed** white-hairy, not **resinous**, obscurely **reticulate**; margins bevel-edged, rarely with **wing** 1 mm wide. Seeds **longitudinal** to **oblique** or transverse, 4–7 (–8) mm long, (3–) 4–6 mm wide, **discoid** to widely **elliptic** or sometimes **oblong**, flattened; **aril** small, \pm white.

Habitat

Grows in sand, loam or clay on stony plains or in skeletal soil on low rocky hills of mixed geology, and is commonly associated with water courses; in open to dense Mulga and/or mixed Acacia shrubland.

Specimens

W.A.: 5 km W of Erong Springs HS, *R.J.Cranfield 5345* (PERTH, Z); Lennonville, c. 10 km N of Mt Magnet, *B.R.Maslin 3585* (PERTH); Balfour Downs Strn, *B.R.Maslin 8873* (PERTH); 10 km due ESE of Mt Magnet, Boogardie Strn, 'Mullitor paddock', *B.R.Maslin, et al. BRM 7897E* (BRI, CANB, KPBG, PERTH); Woodleigh-Byro [stations] turn-off, North West Coastal Hwy, *G.Phillips for A.M.Ashby AMA 4493* (AD, HO, MEL, PERTH).

Notes

A member of the '*A. aneura* group' (Mulga) most closely related to *A. pteraneura* and *A. aneura* both of which possess resinous new shoots. *Acacia fuscaneura* is sometimes sympatric with *A. pteraneura* and intergrades/hybrids between them occur in a few populations. *Acacia pteraneura* is further distinguished by its terete to subterete phyllodes and never bevel-edged pods; however, some specimens cannot be satisfactorily accommodated in either species, see B.R.Maslin & J.E.Reid, *Nuytsia* 22(4): 129–267 (2012), for discussion. *Acacia aneura* is further distinguished by its pods that are more thinly textured, ±glabrous, never purple-tinged, mostly straight-edged with resinous margins and normally smaller seed.

Genetically *A. fuscaneura* is related to *A. macraneura* but morphologically the two species are very dissimilar, see B.R.Maslin & J.E.Reid, *loc. cit.*, for discussion. *Acacia fuscaneura* occasionally putatively hybridizes with *A. ramulosa* (e.g. *B.R. Maslin et al.*) and rarely with *A. incurvaneura* (e.g. *B.R. Maslin et al. BRM 9149*), see B.R.Maslin and J.E.Reid, *loc. cit.*, for discussion.

This taxon was treated as *A. aneura* var. *fuliginea* 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 specimens *A.W. Humphries M31* and *M. Kerkhoff s.n.* that L.Pedley, *loc. cit.*, cited under *A. aneura* var. *fuliginea* are hybrids involving *A. craspedocarpa*, while the *J.W.Green 1625* specimen that was also cited under var. *fuliginea* is hybrid of uncertain parentage, see B.R.Maslin and J.E.Reid, *loc. cit.*, for discussion.

A characteristic feature of *A. fuscaneura* is that its new shoots are not resinous and are dark-coloured (often blackish) due to a very dense layer of glandular hairlets that tend to persist (but are less dense) as shoot expands, giving it the appearance of being covered by a sooty substance. Its pod margins can be either bevel-edged or less commonly winged; as discussed by R.Rutishauser *et al.*, *Phyton* 50: 69–89 (2010), the bevel-edge is interpreted as a highly reduced wing.

FOA Reference

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

Author

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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



Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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