

# WATTLE

## Acacias of Australia

### *Acacia harpophylla* F.Muell. ex Benth.



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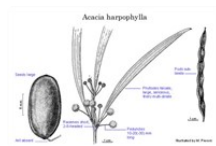
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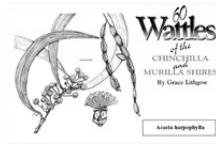
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Acacia harpophylla occurrence map.  
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

### Common Name

Brigalow, Brigalow Spearwood, Orkor

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Common in central and coastal Qld S of Richmond and Mackay, extending across the western plains and slopes of northern N.S.W. to Roto and near Willow Tree.

### Description

**Tree** to 25 m high, root-suckering. Bark hard, furrowed, almost black. **Branchlets** angular at extremities, **appressed-puberulous** or **glabrous**. Phyllodes **falcate**, (7–) 10–20 (–30) cm long and (5–) 7–20 (–30) mm wide, **coriaceous**, **sericeous**, silvery grey, with numerous closely parallel nerves of which 3–7 are more prominent than the rest. Inflorescences condensed 2–8-headed racemes, often appearing as **axillary** clusters; **raceme axes** 2–10 mm long, **appressed-puberulous**; peduncles 10–20 (–30) mm long, **appressed-puberulous**; heads **globular**, 5–8 mm diam., 15–35-flowered, golden. Flowers 4- or sometimes 5-**merous**; sepals to 1/2-united. Pods subterete, slightly raised over and constricted between seeds, **straight** to slightly **curved**, to 20 cm long, 5–10 mm wide, **crustaceous**, longitudinally nerved, **glabrous**. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong** or broadly **elliptic**, flat but thick, 10–18 mm long, soft, dull, brown; **pleurogram** not evident; **funicle filiform**, **exarillate**.

### Habitat

Forms extensive open-forest communities usually on fertile clay and loamy clay.

### Specimens

Qld: Condamine, *L.Pedley 2403* (PERTH); 24 km SSE of Toompine, *L.Pedley 2456* (PERTH). N.S.W.: 38.1 km S of Boggabilla towards Moree, *R.Cumming 2844* (PERTH).

### Notes

While the species has been characterised regularly as pentamerous, there is a high proportion of tetramerous flowers in all the material seen. In general, the flowers are 4-merous but with a few 5-merous ones intermixed in the heads; occasionally a head with mostly pentamerous flowers can be observed. Tetramery in *A. harpophylla* appears not firmly entrenched but in *A. argyrodendron*, a species of similar general appearance, tetramery is well established.

Because of its suckering habit *Acacia harpophylla* is generally considered an undesirable species, especially as Brigalow lands are highly productive when cleared.

Most closely related to *A. cambagei* according to L.Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 190 (1978).

### 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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Minor edits by B.R.Maslin & J.Rogers

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



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