

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia kettlewelliae Maiden



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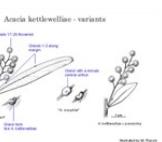
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Acacia kettlewelliae occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Buffalo Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs along the Great Divide from around Tumut, N.S.W., S to Mt Buffalo and near Omeo, Vic. A variant occurs in the Kybeyan Ra., N.S.W.

Description

Bushy shrub or tree usually 2–10 m high. Branchlets angled at extremities, glabrous. Phyllodes on raised stem-projections, narrowly (oblong-) elliptic to narrowly oblanceolate, usually 4–10 cm long and 4–10 mm wide with l:w = 8–13, mucronulate, thin, green to glaucous, glabrous except pulvinus normally sparsely hirtellous adaxially, 1-nerved per face; lateral nerves obscure; gland submerged and swollen within the lamina, with orifice at distal end of gland and usually downward-pointing, usually 5–15 mm above pulvinus. Inflorescences racemose, prolific in upper axils; raceme axes mostly 1–7 cm long, ±glabrous; peduncles 2–4 mm long, ±glabrous; heads globular, usually 8–11-flowered, bright light golden. Flowers 5-merous; sepals united to near their apices; ovary usually glabrous. Pods 5–10 cm long, 6–14 mm wide, firmly chartaceous, ±pruinose, glabrous, dehiscing unilaterally. Seeds normally longitudinal to oblique, oblong-elliptic to ovate, 4–5 mm long, ±dull, black; aril clavate.

Habitat

At high altitudes it grows in montane forest, but it also grows on lower slopes and near streams.

Specimens

N.S.W.: on the banks of the Tumbarumba Ck, 8.1 km from the main road junction in Tumbarumba and on the road to Tumut, N.Hall H79/101 (MEL, NSW, PERTH); Alpine Way, Kosciuszko Natl Park, J.Pickard & R.Coveny 2778 (NSW, PERTH). Vic.: Tambo R., c. 27.3 km E of Omeo, A.C.Beaglehole 41549 (MEL); Paradise Falls, 13 km SSE of Whitfield, B.R.Maslin 5946 (MEL, PERTH).

Notes

Hybrids with *A. pravissima* (see Fig. 29 I) occur at Paradise Falls, north-eastern Vic. (e.g. F.E.Bienvenu 0005, MEL). These hybrids resemble *A. semibinervia*. A putative hybrid, involving the same parents, is also known in cultivation from material collected from the Snowy R., N.S.W. (e.g. W.Molyneux s.n., PERTH01506293).

In Vic. and southern N.S.W. two forms can often be recognised in the field. In drier woodland sites it occurs as a shrub c. 2 m high, with short, narrow (to c. 5 mm wide), slaty grey-green to glaucous phyllodes; this form may resemble *A. boormanii* var. Mt Typo (F.E.Bienvenu 11). In wetter forests it occurs as a shrub or small tree to 10 m high, with long, broad (to 10 mm wide), olive green to sage dark green phyllodes.

The taxonomic status of *A. oreophila* and *A. walteri* requires further investigation; J.H.Willis, *Victorian Naturalist* 73: 157 (1957), regarded them as conspecific with *A. kettlewelliae*. The types are flowering specimens which differ from *A. kettlewelliae* in their densely hairy ovaries and more numerous flowers per head (i.e. 17–20; *A. oreophila* is erroneously given as 10–14-flowered in protologue). Also, in *A. oreophila* the gland is pustulate and exserted with a minute central orifice; in *A. walteri* there are 1–3 glands which, although somewhat similar to those of *A. kettlewelliae*, have a larger orifice which does not point downwards.

Acacia kettlewelliae appears to be most closely related to *A. pataczekii* and *A. prominens*.

Plants from the Kybeyan Ra., N.S.W., are unusual in being shrubs 1–2 m high with small phyllodes (1–3 cm long, 3–4.5 mm wide, l:w = 3–7, gland 1–6 mm above pulvinus), e.g. J.Pickard & R.Coveny 2822 (CANB, NSW, PERTH). These may represent a distinct taxon and there are indications that they hybridise with *A. kybeanensis*.

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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Minor edits by J.Reid & J.Rogers

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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