**WATTLE**

Acacias of Australia

**Acacia latior** (R.S.Cowan & Maslin) Maslin & Buscumb

**Common Name**
Broad-leaf Sugar Brother

**Family**
Fabaceae

**Distribution**
Common in the Mullewa area, W.A., with scattered occurrences in Gnows Nest and Blue Hill ranges, and on White Wells, Karara and Warriedar stns.

**Description**
Rounded or obconic, normally multi-stemmed shrub 1–3 (–4) m high, stems ±sparingly fluted, crowns dense and compact. New shoots densely silvery white appressed hairy. Bark smooth or finely fissured. Branchlets ±angular or sub-flattened at extremities, obscurely ribbed, glabrous or appressed-puberulous at extremities. Phyllodes narrowly oblanceolate to linear-oblanceolate, linear-elliptic or linear, flat, straight to shallowly incurved, acute or obtuse and innocuous to coarsely pungent, (4–) 5–11 (–13) cm long, (2–) 5–8 (–10) mm wide, subrigid, green to grey-green with a distinctive silvery sheen most evident on young phyllodes, appressed-puberulous: with hairs confined to between nerves with age, longitudinal nerves numerous, fine and close together. Inflorescences simple, mostly 2 per axil; peduncles 3–7 mm long, with dense, silvery white appressed hairs and occasionally red-brown glandular hairlets; heads widely ellipsoid to obloid or short cylindrical, 8–12 mm long, 5–7 mm diam., golden. Flowers 5-merous; calyx variable, divided to c. ½ its length or sometimes to the base. Pods straight to slightly curved, terete, 2–5 cm long, (1.5–) 2–3 mm wide, thinly to moderately coriaceous, appressed-puberulous, obscurely longitudinally nerved. Seeds longitudinal, oblong, 2–2.5 (–3) mm long, shiny, light or dark brown, aril white.

**Habitat**
Grows in sand, rocky clay or clay loam and sandy loam, on sandplains, or gravelly rises, in shrubland or scrub with mallee-type eucalypts and Acacia spp.

**Specimens**
W.A.: Whitewells Stn, 64 km E of Perenjori, J.S.Beard 7367 (PERTH: narrow phyllode form); between Cue and Mount Magnet, W.E.Blackall 81 (PERTH); East Yuna Reserve, A.C.Burns 1A (PERTH); 55.5 km E of Mullewa on the road to Yalgoo, B.R.Maslin 9416 (PERTH).

**Notes**
Until recently treated as a variety of *A. coolgardiensis*, now considered more appropriate as a distinct species; see B.R.Maslin & C.Buscumb, Nuytsia 18: 107–125 (2008) for discussion.

A member of the 'A. coolgardiensis' group and, around Mullewa, is parapatric and/or sympatric with other members of the group, namely, *A. coolgardiensis*, *A. effusifolia* and *A. incognita*; possibly hybrids between *A. latior* and *A. effusifolia* occur in this area, e.g. B.R.Maslin 4261 (PERTH). Most closely related to *A. sulcaticaulis* which differs in its clearly flattened branchlets, slightly broader, bright green phyllodes that are either glabrous or with sparse appressed hairs, less obviously hairy branchlets and peduncles, and ±glabrous pods that are <2 mm wide.

*Acaea latior* is very variable in its phyllode shape and size. A variant with narrower than normal phyllodes (2–4 mm wide) is common in the Blue Hill Ra., E of Mullewa. It resembles, and is sometimes sympatric with, *A. effusifolia* from which it is most readily distinguished by having conspicuously hairy new shoots; see B.R.Maslin & C.Buscumb, Nuytsia 18: 121 (2008) for discussion.

**FOA Reference**