**Acacia leptocarpa** A.Cunn. ex Benth.

**Occurrence Map**


**Family**

Fabaceae

**Distribution**

Occurs in tropical Australia from Carlton Hill Stn in northern W.A. eastwards to Anhemb Land and the Gulf of Carpentaria, including offshore islands of N.T. (N of c. 17ºS), to Cape York southwards along the eastern coast to c. 26ºS, Qld. Also recorded from southern New Guinea, *fide* L.Pedley, *Contrib. Queensland Herb.* 18: 19 (1975).

**Description**

Tree to 15 m high, rarely a shrub to 4 m. Bark ‘ironbark’ type, dark grey to almost black. Branchlets angular towards apices, lenticellate, glabrous. Phyllodes narrowly elliptic, attenuated towards both ends, markedly falcate, (8–) 11–20 (~27) cm long, (6–) 10–35 (~55) mm wide, thinly coriaceous, glabrous, with 3 prominent main nerves (the lower 2 often confluent towards base and the uppermost sometimes confluent with upper margin before reaching apex); minor nerves 1–3 per mm, longitudinal, occasionally anastomosing; gland usually 1, basal, conspicuous. Spikes 3.5–9.5 cm long, yellow to golden. Flowers 5-merous; calyx 0.4–0.9 mm long, sinuate or dissected to 1/4, with fimbriate margins, ± glabrous; corolla 1.3–2 mm long, dissected to 1/2, glabrous; ovary densely pubescent. Pods slightly or variably constricted between and raised over seeds, curved, curled or twisted, 8–15 cm long, 2–3.5 (~5) mm wide, thinly coriaceous to chartaceous, glabrous. Seeds longitudinal, oblong-elliptic, 3–4 mm long, dark brown; pleurogram U-shaped; funicle-aril massive, longer than seed, yellow-orange.
Habitat
Grows in open eucalypt and/or Melaleuca woodlands, in sandy or rocky soils, sometimes on laterite.

Specimens

Notes
Details of ecology, utilisation, etc. of A. leptocarpa are given in J.W.Turnbull (ed.), Multipurpose Austral. Trees & Shrubs 152 (1986).

Similar to A. cowleana and A. elachantha but distinguished by a combination of its glabrous branchlets, glabrous and thinner phyllodes, commonly longer flower-spikes which occur in groups of 2–5 within the phyllode axils and its generally longer, more curved or twisted pods. Possibly also with affinities to A. tropica and A. rubricaulis. A putative, rare hybrid between A. leptocarpa and A. polystachya occurs NW of Townsville (R.J.Cumming 14870, BRI).

FOA Reference

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