

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia mabellae Maiden



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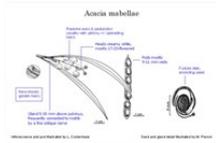
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Acacia mabellae occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Mabel's Wattle, Black Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in N.S.W. on the near-coastal slopes of the Great Divide from Higgins Ck, c. 40 km W of Camden, S to Bermagui; one collection from 'near Bethungra' is distributionally anomalous (i.e. *H.Boyd*, NSW178732).

Description

Shrub or tree 3–10 (–20) m high. New shoots golden (rarely white) **puberulous**. **Branchlets** angled at extremities, **glabrous**. Phyllodes somewhat **pendulous**, normally **±falcate**, narrowly **elliptic** or sometimes **oblanceolate**, narrowed at both ends, (9–) 12–22 (–27) cm long, usually 7–15 mm wide, thin, **glabrous**, with prominent **midrib**, obscurely **penninerved**; **gland** 5–30 mm above **pulvinus**; margin shallowly indented at **gland** which is frequently connected to **midrib** by a fine **oblique nerve**. Inflorescences 6–16-headed racemes; **raceme axes** (1–) 1.5–5 (–8) cm long, often growing out, usually golden-**puberulous**; peduncles 5–12 mm long, slender, with **indumentum** as on **raceme axes**; heads **globular**, (12–) 17–20-flowered, creamy white. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals united almost to their apices. Pods **narrowly oblong**, to 14 cm long, 9–11 (–15) mm wide, thinly **coriaceous**, **glabrous**. Seeds **longitudinal** to **oblique**, **oblong** to **ovate-elliptic**, 4–5 mm long; **funicle** encircling seed in a double fold, thick, black; **aril clavate**.

Habitat

Grows in sand in tall *Eucalyptus* forest, sometimes on the margin of rainforest.

Specimens

N.S.W.: Yerrilyong, c. 13 km SW of Nowra, *E.F.Constable* 1268 (NSW); Central Tilba, 23 Oct. 1957, *E.F.Constable* s.n. (NSW, K); eastern side of Clyde Mtn, Budawang Ra., *R.Pullen* 3895 (NSW).

Notes

A member of the '*A. microbotrya* group' with phyllodes often similar to those of *A. falciformis*, *A. penninervis*, *A. retinodes*, *A. rubida* or *A. saliciformis*. However, *A. mabellae* is distinguished by a combination of its usually yellow-hairy peduncles and raceme axes (hairs normally **±spreading**), creamy white flower-heads, pods 9–11 mm wide and funicles encircling the seeds. The young raceme axes and peduncles are characteristically golden-puberulous with dense, **±spreading** hairs. However, on mature racemes the hairs are often white to pale yellow, occasionally appressed and may become sparse with age (**±glabrous** in fruit). *Acacia falciformis* has a similar yellow indumentum except that the hairs are always closely appressed; it is further distinguished by heads 20–30-flowered, pods 15–25 mm wide and funicles not encircling seeds.

Specimens from Clyde R. and Mogo State Forest often have some phyllodes 20–25 mm wide.

The original spelling of the epithet is retained in preference to *mabelliae*, *vide* N.Hall & L.A.S.Johnson, *The Names of Acacias of New South Wales* 48 (1993).

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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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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