

WATTLE

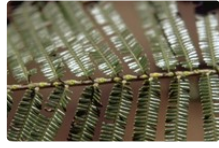
Acacias of Australia

Acacia mearnsii De Wild.



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Acacia mearnsii occurrence map.

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

Common Name

Black Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in N.S.W. S from Central Mangrove along the coast and tablelands (including the A.C.T.), widespread in Vic. and Tas., also in S.A. S of Naracoorte. There are naturalised records for N.S.W., the Mt Lofty Ra., S.A., and south-western W.A.

Description

Spreading **shrub** or mostly **erect tree** to 10 (–16) m high. Bark of **trunk** smooth, corrugated at base when old, black or grey. **Branchlets** angular with short ridges, non-**glaucous**, densely **velvety-tomentose**. Young foliage-tips yellow or greenish yellow, **velvety-pubescent**. Leaves subcoriaceous, dark green and glossy above, **concolorous** or slightly paler beneath; **petiole** above **pulvinus** 0.5–2.5 cm long, shortly ridged, with an **orbicular** grey-tomentellose **gland** at base of or to 8 mm below lowest pair of **pinnae**; **rachis** mostly 3–13.5 cm long, with a similar **gland** near base of each pair of **pinnae**, usually with 1 or 2 often **confluent interjogary** glands between some or all pairs of **pinnae**; **pinnae** 7–31 pairs, 1.5–6 cm long; pinnules (16–) 25–78 pairs, **cultrate** to **narrowly oblong** or slightly **spatulate**, 1–3.5 (–4) mm long, 0.5–0.8 mm wide, with inconspicuous midnerve, **±glabrous** above, densely **grey-puberulous** below, broadly **rounded** and auriculate at base, broadly **rounded**, **truncate** or **obtusate** at apex. Inflorescences in **axillary** racemes, or terminal or **axillary** false panicles; peduncles 2–8 mm long, white- to golden-hairy. Heads 20–40-flowered, pale yellow or cream-coloured. Pods barely constricted between seeds to **±submoniliform** or irregularly more deeply indented, **straight** to **curved**, 3–15 cm long, 4.5–8 mm wide, **coriaceous**, black, red-brown or dark brown, slightly **scabrous**, grey-**puberulous**.

Phenology

Flowers mainly Oct.–Dec.; fruits Oct.–Feb.

Habitat

Grows in open forest, woodland or tussock grassland, in gullies or on hillsides, in sandy or gravelly clay soils.

Specimens

W.A.: northern outskirts of Nannup, *G.J.Keighery 9469* (PERTH *n.v.*). S.A.: Mons Gambir [Mount Gambier], *F.Mueller* (MEL). N.S.W.: near Burrewarra Pt, S of Bateman's Bay, *L.A.Craven 631* (B, CANB, K, MEL, UC, US); 3.2 km S of Yerrinbool, *M.D.Tindale s.n.* (NSW52614). A.C.T.: lower NE slopes of Black Mtn, Canberra, *R.Pullen 10364* (CANB, NSW). Vic.: Grampians, ±4 km N of Zumsteins, *S.T.W.Parfett 78* (MEL, NSW, PERTH); E of Lakes Entrance, *A.N.Rodd 4292* (HO, MEL, NSW). Tas.: Clark Is., *Baudinet* (MEL); 6 miles [9.7 km] from St Helen's, 7 Dec. 1965, *M.E.Phillips* (CANB, NSW).

Notes

Acacia mearnsii is the principal source of tanning bark in Africa where it is cultivated in plantations. The tan bark industry based on *A. mearnsii*, in Africa and elsewhere, is summarised by A.E.Orchard & A.J.G.Wilson, Utilisation of the Australian Flora, in *Fl. Australia* 2nd edn 1: 437–466 (1999). This species was described by E.De Wildman, who believed that it was native to East Africa. The excluded syntype, from the vicinity of Nairobi, British East Africa, *E.A.Mearns 249* (BR) is *Acacia dealbata*. Further information on the biological and ecological features, and the utilisation potential, of this species is given in B.R.Maslin and M.W.McDonald, *AcaciaSearch: Evaluation of Acacia as a woody crop option for southern Australia*, RIRDC Publication No. 03/017, 118–126 (2004).

Allied to *A. parramattensis*, *A. loroloba* and *A. constablei*.

FOA Reference

Data derived from *Flora of Australia* Volumes 11A (2001), 11B (2001) and 12 (1998), products of ABRS, ©Commonwealth of Australia

Author

Minor edits by B.R.Maslin & J.Reid

M.D.Tindale, P.G.Kodala

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



URL: <https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/wattle>
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