

# WATTLE

## Acacias of Australia

### *Acacia microbotrya* Benth.



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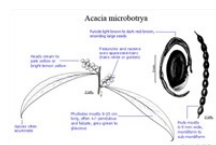
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See illustration.



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

### Common Name

Manna Wattle

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Occurs in the central and southern wheatbelt region of south-western W.A. from near Dandaragan E to near Merredin and S to the vicinity of Kojonup and Ravensthorpe. In recent years this species has been used for roadside regeneration in areas outside its natural range.

### Description

Sturdy **shrub** or **tree** 3–8 (–10) m high, with 1–3 (–4) main trunks, crowns bushy, often suckering. Bark light- or dark-grey to black, smooth to rough and longitudinally **fissured**. **Branchlets** **glabrous**. Phyllodes **patent** to **pendulous**, narrowly **elliptic** to **oblongate**, shallowly to obviously **falcately recurved**, (7–) 8–15 (–18) cm long, (5–) 8–18 (–25) mm wide, **acute** to **acuminate**, thinly **coriaceous**, grey-green to **sub-glaucous** or **glaucous** but commonly aging green **glabrous**, 1-nerved per face, obscurely **penninerved**; **gland** not prominent, 2–30 (–40) mm above **pulvinus**. Inflorescences **racemose**; **raceme axes** mostly 1–6 (–8) cm long, sparsely to densely **appressed-puberulous** with yellow or white hairs that are often absent at base of **axes**; peduncles 2–6 mm long, with **indumentum** as on **raceme axes**; heads showy, **globular**, 3–6 mm diam. at **anthesis** (dry), 20–35 (–40)-flowered, cream to pale yellow or bright lemon yellow; **bracteole** laminae golden-**fimbriolate**. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals united. Pods **moniliform** to submoniliform, 9–20 (–24) cm long, (5–) 6–9 mm wide, thinly **coriaceous**, reddish brown to blackish (dry), **glabrous**. Seeds **oblong** to **elliptic**, 5–8 mm long, 3–5 (–6) mm wide, subshiny, dark brown to black, smooth or minutely pitted, ½ or more commonly wholly encircled by a light brown to dark red-brown, slender **funicle**; **aril clavate**.

## Phenology

Flowers Apr.–early July with the main flush from early May–late June.

## Habitat

Grows in a range of habitats but is commonly found on clay-loam or sandy loam flats, often near watercourses; the Dandaragan variant favours sandy soil. Often locally common and often found along degraded road verges.

## Specimens

W.A.: Fitzgerald R., c. 112.7 km ESE of Ongerup, *R.Coveny 3260 et al.* (NSW, PERTH); 20.9 km S of Konnongorring between Goomalling and Wongan Hills, B.R.Maslin 1631 (NSW, PERTH); 16.5 km E of Dandaragan on rd to Moora, B.R.Maslin 8206F (PERTH); in glareosis illustribus sylvae inter praedia rustica Dom. Barker et Lennard [between York and Guilford], L.Preiss 923 (LUND, MEL).

## Notes

The concept of *A. microbotrya* by B.R.Maslin, Fl. Australia 11A: 284 (2001), has changed with the removal of the short-phyllode entity from N of about Moora as *A. daphnifolia*.

This species, together with 43 relatives Australia-wide, was defined by B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 10: 186 (1995) as comprising the informal 'Acacia microbotrya group'. A number of taxa have subsequently been added to the group, namely, *A. euthycarpa*, *A. daphnifolia*, *A. provincialis*, *A. splendens*, *A. spooneri*, *Acacia* sp. Kalannie (B.R.Maslin 7571), *Acacia* sp. Kalannie (B.R.Maslin 7706), *Acacia* sp. Merredin (B.R. Maslin 586), *Acacia* sp. Small Red-leaved Wattle (J.B.Williams 95033), *Acacia* sp. Wubin (B.R. Maslin 4131), *A. toondulya* and *A. unciifolia*. Among other characters, the members of the group are normally recognised by their filiform funicle which is usually red or red-brown and which partially or completely encircles the seed in a single or double fold. *Acacia latiseppala*, which is normally referred to sect. *Botrycephalae*, has the same sort of funicle. Some members of the group, particularly *A. chrysellae*, *A. brumalis*, *A. chamaeleon* and *A. microbotrya* from W.A., are extremely variable and further studies are needed to elucidate the complex variation patterns and clarify the relationships between these species. It is likely that future work will result in the recognition of additional species within this species-complex.

A variant characterized by its tall stature, distinctly acuminate, green, slightly shiny phyllodes and slightly narrower than normal pods and seed that occurs W and NW of Moora was described by B.R.Maslin and M.W.McDonald, *loc. cit.*, as *A. bartleana* (ms) but it is now not considered worthy of formal recognition. This entity has more potential for development as a crop plant for high volume wood production than does typical *A. microbotrya*, see B.R.Maslin and M.W.McDonald, *AcaciaSearch: Evaluation of Acacia as a woody crop option for southern Australia*, RIRDC Publication No. 03/017: 50–53 and 136–140 (2004), for discussion.

*Acacia microbotrya* is especially closely related to *A. daphnifolia*, *A. amblyophylla* and *A. jennerae* and is superficially similar to *A. galeata*. It is a hardy, drought- and frost-tolerant, fast-growing species with a life span of about 20–30 years.

## FOA Reference

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

## Author

B.R.Maslin

Revised by B.R.Maslin

This identification key and fact sheets are available as a mobile application:



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and Attractions  
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Australian  
Biological  
Resources  
Study



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