**Acacia monticola** J.M.Black

**Common Name**
Curley-bark Wattle, Red Wattle, Hill Turpentine

**Family**
Fabaceae

**Distribution**
Widespread in northern and north-western Australia, extending from the Pilbara and Kimberley regions of W.A. eastwards through N.T. (between 14ºS and 24ºS) to central western Qld.

**Description**
Resinous, normally obconic and multi-stemmed shrub or tree 2–5 (–8) m high, rarely prostrate. Bark ‘Minni Ritchi’, dark brownish red aging grey. Branchlets invested with minute, straight, white, patent, fine hairs which are often not apparent to the unaided eye. New shoots bright green and viscid-resinous. Phyllodes elliptic to obovate, slightly asymmetric, (10–) 12–32 (–50) mm long, 5–15 (–20) mm wide, apex rounded-obtuse and mucronulate or rarely acute, green but often white (due to dry resin) over the nerves, indumentum as on branchlets; with 3–5 longitudinal nerves; minor nerves anastomosing to form a fine, open reticulum; gland to 3 mm above pulvinus. Inflorescences simple, heads globular to obloid, spicate to 2.2 cm long, light golden. Flowers 5-merous; calyx 0.6–1.4 mm long, dissected ¼–½ its length; corolla striate, glabrous. Pods narrowly oblong, slightly indented, flat except raised over seeds, 1.8–10 cm long, (7–) 10–15 mm wide, coriaceous, brown, transversely reticulate, indumentum as on branchlets, viscid (especially when young) with the resin sweetly aromatic; margins thickened and yellow. Seeds transverse or
slightly oblique, broadly oblong to oblong-elliptic, 4–6.2 mm long, dark brown; areole small, closed, surrounding by a broad pale halo.

**Phenology**
Flowers Apr.–Aug.

**Habitat**
Grows mainly on ironstone or sandstone/quartzite in stony skeletal soils, often on rocky ridges or steep slopes, in red sand or sandy loam, in eucalypt woodland, open Acacia shrubland or spinifex communities.

**Specimens**

**Notes**
It is one of the transitional species between the Plurinerves and Juliflorae. It has a ‘Minni Ritchi’ bark as in *A. chisholmii*, *A. lysiphloia* and *A. trachycarpa* with which it hybridises. Examples of *A. monticola × A. chisholmii* hybrids: Mount Isa, Qld, C.H.Gittins 748 (NSW); L. Moondarra, Qld, R.G.Coveny 476 (NSW). Example of *A. monticola × A. lysiphloia* hybrid: 3.2 km N of Powell Cl, N.T., J.R.Maconochie 1738 (DNA, NSW). For *A. monticola × trachycarpa* hybrids see *A. monticola × trachycarpa*. *Acacia monticola* also hybridizes with the non ‘Minni Ritchi’ species *A. tumida* in W.A. (see *A. monticola × tumida var. pilbarensis* and *A. tumida var. tumida*) and with *A. phlebocarpa* in the Burke District, Qld (e.g. R.Booth 5543 & D.T.Kelman, BRI).

On Dampier Peninsula N of Broome, W.A., wind-pruned plants in coastal areas are sometimes prostrate but further inland they attain arboreal stature 6–8 m tall; the latter have acute, longer than normal phyllodes (25–50 mm). *Acacia monticola* has a striate corolla which is uncommon.

*Acacia monticola* is relatively fast-growing; it generally reproduces from seed, does not coppice but has the capacity to resprout advantageously after mild fires. Details of its ecology, utilisation, etc. are given in J.W.Turnbull (ed.), *Multipurpose Austral. Trees & Shrubs* 168 (1986).

**FOA Reference**

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