

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia mulganeura Maslin & J.E.Reid



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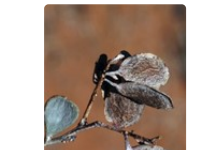
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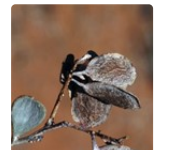
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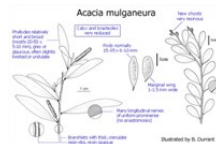
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Acacia mulganeura occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Milky Mulga, Hilltop Mulga

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Widespread in W.A. extending from near Kalgoorlie and Paynes Find N to the southern Pilbara region, with a few scattered occurrences in the far E of the State; also occurs in NW S.A. and southern N.T.

Description

Rounded, multi-stemmed shrub commonly 1.5–3 m high, maturing to **tree** 4–5 (–7) m, crown often compact. Branchlet ribs with a thick layer of opaque, segmented, milky blue-grey or yellowish resin that often persists as beaded white lines on mature **branchlets**; new shoots very **resinous**, reddish glandular hairlets embedded within the opaque resin. Phyllodes variable, symmetrically **elliptic** to narrowly **elliptic** or **obovate** to **oblanceolate**, often slightly twisted or shallowly **undulate**, **straight**, (1–) 2–5 cm long, 5–10 (–13) mm wide, normally **obtuse**, grey, blue-grey, **sub-glaucous** or pale grey-green, dull green on oldest phyllodes, **longitudinal** nerves numerous, marginal **nerve resinous** and yellow to light brown. Inflorescences **simple** or occasionally **rudimentary** racemes to c. 2 mm long; peduncles 3–10 mm long, sparsely **appressed** white-**puberulous** with some red-brown, microscopic glandular hairlets; spikes 10–20 mm long; bracteoles minute (0.4–0.5 mm long) and **sub-sessile**. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals often extremely reduced, 1/6–1/3 length of petals, ±free; petals 1.2–1.3 mm long. Pods **oblong** or **fusiform**, (1–) 1.5–3.5 cm long, (5–) 6–10 (–11) mm wide including wings 1–1.5 mm wide, firmly **chartaceous** to thinly **coriaceous**, dark greyish brown, obscurely longitudinally **reticulate**. Seeds **oblique** or sometimes **longitudinal**, 4.5–5.5 mm long, 2.5–3.5 mm wide, **elliptic**; **aril** small, creamy white.

Habitat

Grows in red-brown loam, sandy loam, silty loam, clay-loam or sometimes clay often over hardpan, on flats, gently undulating country or in skeletal soil on rocky hills. Often found in mixed Mulga shrubland with a ground cover of Spinifex (*Triodia* sp.).

Specimens

W.A.: Mt Beadell, Gibson Desert, *S.D.Hopper 2814* (PERTH); 50 km W of Wiluna on rd to Meekatharra, *B.R.Maslin 7077* (CANB, PERTH); c. 7 km due E of Giles Point (between Newman and Tom Price), *B.R.Maslin & J.E.Reid BRM 10037* (K, PERTH). N.T.: Beddome Ra., New Crown Station, *P.K.Latz 6873* (PERTH ex DNA). S.A.: 4 km N of SW corner of Lake, Wilkinson Lakes, *F.Mollenman 967* (AD).

Notes

Plants of this species appear to be killed by fire.

Acacia mulganeura is a member of the '*A. aneura* group' (Mulga) and is most closely related to *A. caesaneura*, *A. incurvaneura* (with which it sometimes hybridizes) and *A. minyura*; it also appears to have some affinities with *A. ayersiana* with which it may possibly occasionally hybridize in the Pilbara region, W.A. (e.g. *B.R.Maslin 8087*, PERTH). *Acacia mulganeura* is, however, distinguished from these species, and from all others of the Mulga group, by a combination of its thick-resinous branchlet ribs (resin opaque), very resinous new shoots, relatively short and broad, symmetric phyllodes and very reduced calyces and bracteoles. See B.R.Maslin & J.E.Reid, *Nuytsia* 22(4): 235-244 (2012), for further discussion. Specimens of *A. mulganeura* with short phyllodes can be confused with *A. craspedocarpa* which is readily distinguished by its reticulately nerved phyllodes; the two species are not especially closely related.

Two variants, not included in the above description, are recognized within this species in W.A.; these entities may represent hybrids or intergrades between *A. caesaneura* and different morphotypes of *A. mulganeura*. Both variants differ from typical *A. mulganeura* in having less resinous new shoots and from *A. caesaneura* in having shorter and/or more symmetric phyllodes. The more common of these variants is *A. mulganeura* (variant 1) which occurs from about Paynes Find to Cue E to Laverton, but seems most common in the western part of this geographic range. See B.R.Maslin & J.E.Reid, *Nuytsia* 22(4): 235-244 (2012), for discussion.

Acacia mulganeura was included within the circumscription of *A. minyura* by B.Randell, *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 14: 126 (1992), resulting in that author erroneously describing the phyllodes as reaching 10 mm wide. The *Winnecke s.n.* and *P.K.Latz 6873* collections cited by L.Pedley, *Fl. Australia* 11B: 325 (2001) under *A. minyura* are also *A. mulganeura*, *fide* B.R.Maslin & J.E.Reid, *loc. cit.* The specimen *A.A.Burbidge 4* that L.Pedley, *Flora of Australia* 11B: 322 (2001), cited under *A. aneura* var. *argentea* is *A. mulganeura*.

FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

Author

B.R.Maslin

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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