

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia murrayana* F.Muell. ex Benth.



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

## Common Name

Murray's Wattle, Sandplain Wattle, Colony Wattle, Powder Bark Wattle

## Family

Fabaceae

## Distribution

Widespread in the arid zone from North West Cape and Shark Bay, W.A., through N.T. and S.A. to the western margin of the Great Divide near Mitchell (Qld) and Narrabri (N.S.W.).

## Description

Shrub or tree to 5 (–8) m, commonly suckering and forming colonies. Branchlets often pruinose, glabrous. Phyllodes linear to narrowly elliptic, sometimes oblanceolate, 5–15 (–20) cm long, 1.5–8 (–20) mm wide, with a minute callous ±curved mucro overtopping the gland, thinly coriaceous, often drying finely longitudinally wrinkled, pale green to glaucous, glabrous; midrib not prominent; lateral nerves obscure and longitudinally anastomosing; glands basal, and at base of mucro. Inflorescences 2–10-headed racemes; raceme axes 1–6 cm long, slender, glabrous; peduncles 4–10 (–15) mm long, slender, glabrous; heads globular, densely 25–50-flowered, light golden to mid-golden. Flowers 5-merous; sepals ±free. Pods narrowly oblong, prominently rounded over seeds, to 9 cm long, 8–12 mm wide, chartaceous, sometimes pruinose, glabrous. Seeds transverse to oblique, oblong, elliptic, ovate or ±orbicular, 4–5.5 mm long, shallowly depressed at centre, dull, black, exarillate.

## Habitat

Grows in sand on dunes, plains or along streams, often with mulga or spinifex.

## Specimens

W.A.: 5.6 km S of Menzies towards Kalgoorlie, *B.R.Maslin* 1935 (MEL, PERTH). N.T.: 29 km SE of Aileron township, *M.Lazarides* 5772 (K, PERTH). S.A.: Panaramitee, *G.Gardiner* (AD96650302); c. 12 km NE of Innamincka, *D.J.E.Whibley* 2457 (PERTH). Qld: near Nebine Ck, *L.Pedley* 2417 (K, PERTH). N.S.W.: 17 km W of 'Tundulya', *J.Pickard* 2015 (CANB *n.v.*, K, NSW).

## Notes

An adaptable, fast-growing species with life-span of about 10–25 years. It is highly fire-tolerant and resprouts readily after wildfires; it is drought-adapted but not especially drought-tolerant. It forms colonies from subsurface adventitious sprouts often a considerable distance from the parent plant. A relatively poor stock fodder plant. Aboriginal use of *A. murrayana* in central Australia is provided by P.Latz, *Bushfires & Bushtucker* 110 (1995). Further information concerning the biology, ecology and utilisation potential of this species is provided in B.R.Maslin & M.W.McDonald, *AcaciaSearch: Evaluation of Acacia as a woody crop option for southern Australia*, pp. 142–147, RIRDC Publication No 03/017 (2006).

Future studies may show a need to recognise infraspecific taxa to accommodate the considerable variation in phyllode shape, width and colour.

*Acacia murrayana* together with *A. gelasina*, *A. pachyacra*, *A. praelongata* and *A. subrigida* comprise the '*A. murrayana* group', *fide* B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 10: 200 (1995). This group of species is not far removed from the '*A. victoriae*' and '*A. juncifolia*' groups. Some forms may resemble *A. dietrichiana*.

## FOA Reference

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

## Author

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

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



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

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