

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia orthocarpa* F.Muell.



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

### Common Name

Pilbara Weeping Wattle, Needle-leaf Wattle

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Occurs in tropical Australia, in the Dampier–Sahara–Mt Anderson and Fitzroy Crossing–Gordon Downs–Wyndham areas of W.A., in mainly central N.T., and in the Lawn Hill–Mount Isa, Galilee and Georgetown–Gilberton areas of Qld.

### Description

Commonly wispy, graceful, **glabrous shrub** or small **tree** 2–6 m high, crown open with ultimate **branchlets** sometimes  $\pm$ **pendulous**, single-stemmed or sparingly branched at base, sometimes **multi-stemmed** with bushy crown. **Branchlets** obscurely ribbed. Phyllodes **straight** to  $\pm$ **curved**, **terete** to subterete (but sometimes drying irregularly **quadrangular** or rarely flat), (5–) 6–15 cm long (wispy form) or (1.5–) 2–6 (–7) cm long (bushy form), 0.5–0.9 mm wide, slender, not **rigid**, **punctulate** by evident (x10 mag.) **stomatata**, green to grey-green or **sub-glaucous**, sometimes lightly **resinous**; nerveless or very obscurely longitudinally multistriate; **gland** 1, inconspicuous, basal. Spikes 0.9–3.2 cm long, yellow. Flowers 5-**merous**; **calyx gamosepalous**, dissected for 1/2–4/5, thin. Pods **erect**, mostly **linear-oblongeolate** to  $\pm$ **linear**, basally tapered, **straight-sided**, **terete** to **compressed**, 3–10 cm long, 3.5–5 mm wide, **woody**,  $\pm$ **straight**, light brown to yellow-brown, **resinous**,  $\pm$ longitudinally nerved, opening elastically from apex with dehiscent valves shallowly **recurved**. Seeds retained in pods following **dehiscence**, **longitudinal** or slightly **oblique** and seated in distinct chambers, **oblong-elliptic**, 4.3–6 mm long, laterally **compressed**, dark brown; **funicle-aril** narrowly **turbinate** and creamy white.

### Phenology

Flowers (often sporadically) Apr.–Nov.

### Habitat

Grows on sandy flats, rocky hills and in rocky watercourses, in savannah woodland and eucalypt shrubland, often with spinifex.

### Specimens

W.A.: Cherrabun Stn, S of Fitzroy Crossing, *J.S.Beard* 6956 (NSW, PERTH); 1 mile [1.6 km] E of turnoff to Port Hedland, *I.V.Newman* 678 (NSW). N.T.: c. 73.6 km N of Tennant Creek, *J.R.Maconochie* 971 (DNA, NSW, PERTH); 61.2 km S of Dunham R. on Great Northern Hwy, *M.D.Tindale* 10144, *P.Munns* & *R.Turley* (BRI, DNA, MEL, MO,

NSW, PERTH). Qld: Lake Moondarra, Mount Isa, *R.G.Coveny 480* (CANB, NSW, US); Lawn Hill Stn, *P.K.Latz 1602* (DNA, NSW).

## Notes

*Acacia orthocarpa* is very closely related to *A. arida* and the relationship between the two species requires further investigation. The bushy form of *A. orthocarpa* is superficially similar to *A. tenuissima* and although the two species can easily be confused they are not particularly closely related. A rare putative hybrid between *A. orthocarpa* and *A. ancistrocarpa* occurs on Woodstock station (*K.L.Tinley 3244*, PERTH).

## FOA Reference

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

## Author

Revised by B.R.Maslin

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



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