

# WATTLE

## *Acacias of Australia*

### *Acacia prolata* Maslin, M.D.Barrett & R.L.Barrett



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

#### Common Name

Gardner Plateau Whorled Wattle

#### Family

Fabaceae

#### Distribution

Occurs in the Kimberley region of northern W.A. where it is relatively common through the northern Edkins Ra. and southern Prince Regent Natl Park, with an apparent disjunct occurrence on Mt Hart Stn, c. 100 km to the SE.

#### Description

**Erect**, spreading, slightly **viscid shrub** 0.5–1 m tall. **Branchlets pubescent** with weak, slightly to prominently **retrorse** hairs. **Stipules** 1–1.5 (–2) mm long. Phyllodes 10–20 per whorl, (3–) 4–8 (–10) mm long (excluding **mucro**), infrequently **dimorphic** with those subtending inflorescences c. ½ length of the others, 0.3–0.5 mm wide, **straight** to shallowly **curved**, **recurved** at apex, **sub-terete** to flat; **longitudinal** nerves ±not visible; **mucro** distinct, ±**setose**, 0.5–1.5 (–2) mm long. Peduncles 10–20 mm long; heads 25–35-flowered. Bracteoles **lanceolate** to narrowly **lanceolate**, 1.5–2 mm long, 0.15–0.3 mm wide, **acuminate**. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals ±½ length of petals, mostly free, **oblong** to **narrowly oblong** or ±**linear**, **glabrous**; petals **striate** but often obscurely so, ±**glabrous**. Pods ±**sessile**, 4.5–8 cm long, 5–7 mm wide, flat but raised over seeds along midline, reticulately nerved. Seeds **longitudinal** to longitudinally **oblique**, black, dull except slightly shiny at centre, **aril clavate**.

#### Phenology

Flowers in Jan., Feb. and June during which time plants also possess mature pods.

#### Habitat

Grows on sandstone slopes and ridges, often with *Triodia* ground cover.

#### Specimens

W.A.: 6.9 km WNW of Mt Hann, *M.D. & R.L.Barrett MDB 2867B* (BRI, NSW, MEL, PERTH); Humbert Yard Creek, 22 km NW of Mt Hart Station, 29 June 1987, *D.J.Edinger 516* (CANB, DNA, PERTH).

#### Notes

As with many taxa of sect. *Lycopodiifoliae* the general facies of juvenile plants of *A. prolata* differs from that of mature plants. In this species the phyllodes of the juveniles are characteristically erect (not ascending to patent) and some are slightly longer (to 12 mm) than those of mature individuals.

Closely related to *A. dimorpha* and *A. smeringa* which are most readily distinguished by their patent (not retrorsely curved) branchlet hairs and clearly united sepals; see B.R. Maslin, M.D.Barrett & R.L.Barrett, *Nuytsia* 23: 584 (2013), for further discussion. Also related to *A. claviseta* which is readily distinguished by yellow on the upper branchlets, young phyllodes, peduncles and petals, and also by the often clearly clavate phyllode mucro. *Acacia anasilla*, *A. mackenziei* and *A. lycopodiifolia* are perhaps not far removed from *A. prolata* but are distinguished by their united sepals that are clearly less than half the length of the petals.

#### FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

#### Author

Minor edit 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  
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Study



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