

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia provincialis A.Camus



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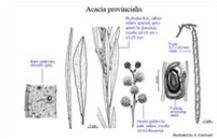
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Acacia provincialis occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Wirilda, Wirrildar, Swamp Wattle, Water Wattle, Perennial Wattle, Ever Flowering Wattle, Ever Blooming Wattle, Bold Wattle, Mimosa of Four Seasons

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Discontinuous in south-eastern Australia where it extends from near Mt Crawford in the Mt Lofty Ranges, S through Fleurieu Penin. to Kangaroo Is., S.A., also in Vic. in the Grampians, along the Glenelg R. to near Melbourne. In Tas. a record from Currie, King Is., requires study to determine if it represents a natural occurrence, and a specimen from Launceston is possibly from a cultivated plant.

Description

Tree 5–10 m high, not suckering. Bark smooth, grey. **Branchlets** prominently flattened and angular, often lightly **pruinose**, **glabrous**. Phyllodes variable, uncrowded on stems (10–20 mm apart), **straight** to shallowly **recurved**, narrowly **oblongate** or narrowly **elliptic**, 10–15 cm long, 15–25 (–35) mm wide, (**linear**, 10–20 cm long and 4–10 mm wide on juvenile plants), grey-green to **glaucous**, often lightly **pruinose**, **glabrous**, 1-nerved per face, obscurely **penninerved**; **gland** normally single (rarely 2–4), 0–16 mm above **pulvinus**. Inflorescences **racemose**; **raceme axes** 2–4 (–5) cm long; peduncles (3–) 4–5 (–7) mm long, **glabrous**; heads **globular**, (18–) 30–50 (–54)-flowered, golden to pale yellow. Flowers 5-merous; sepals united; **ovary glabrous**. Pods **linear**, to 16 cm long, 5–7 (–8) mm wide, firmly **chartaceous**. Seeds **longitudinal**, **oblong** to **oblong-elliptic**, 4–6 mm long, dark brown to black; **funicle** 3/4 or more encircling seed, red-brown to blackish; **aril clavate**.

Phenology

Flowers throughout the year with peaks in Sept.–Oct. and Dec.–Jan.

Habitat

Favours damp soils along watercourses, swamps and valley slopes.

Specimens

S.A.: Kangaroo Is., Church rd, 2 km W of West End Hwy, *D.J.Duval & M.K.Jones 52* (AD, CANB, K, STU); Mount Lofty Ra., southern boundary of Kyeema Cons. Park, *B.R.Maslin 8354* (AD, PERTH). Vic.: Grampians, *S.T.Parfett 13* (AD, MEL, NSW, PERTH); Banks of Glenelg R., 10 Nov. 1963, *J.H.Willis* (MEL).

Notes

The variation in phyllode morphology is related to the biological age of plants. Specimens from western Kangaroo Is. can have very broad phyllodes (to 35 mm) with up to 4 glands along the adaxial margin. For more detailed discussion of variation (including that relating to habit) see M.C.O'Leary, *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 21: 106–107 (2007).

A member of the '*Acacia microbotrya* group' most closely related to *A. uncifolia* and *A. retinodes*, differing from the latter in smooth, grey bark, often pruinose branchlets and phyllodes that are uncrowded on stems, more numerous flowers per head that are pale yellow to golden and broader pods (see *A. uncifolia* for differences relating to that species; see also M.C.O'Leary, *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 21: 97 Table 1 (2007)).

Information on the biological and ecological features, and the utilisation potential, of this species is given in B.R.Maslin and M.W.McDonald, *AcaciaSearch: Evaluation of Acacia as a woody crop option for southern Australia*, RIRDC Publication No. 03/017, 176–180 (2004).

When first described *A. provincialis* was thought to be a garden hybrid between *A. retinodes* and *A. cyanophylla* (= *A. saligna*); it was treated as conspecific with *A. retinodes* by B.R.Maslin, *Fl. Australia* 11A: 281 (2001). However, a revision of *A. retinodes* by M.C.O'Leary, *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 21: 95–109 (2007) has shown that *A. provincialis* is not a hybrid and warrants recognition as a distinct species.

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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B.R.Maslin, M.O'Leary

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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