

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia rostellifera Benth.



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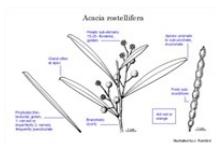
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See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Occurs in coastal areas of south-western W.A. from Shark Bay S to Cape Naturaliste and from Bremer Bay E to Israelite Bay. Naturalized near Barwon Heads, Vic. At the northern end of the range in W.A. it extends inland to Latham.

Description

Dense shrub or tree to 6 m high, often clonal. Bark dark grey and fissured on main trunks. Branchlets glabrous, scurfy. Phyllodes linear to linear-elliptic or narrowly oblanceolate, 4.5–11.5 cm long, 3–17 mm wide, l:w = 4–30, uncinuate to subuncinate, sometimes excentrically rostellate, thin, frequently punctulate, glabrous, 1-nerved or imperfectly 2-nerved; lateral nerves obscure; glands not prominent, 4–13 mm above pulvinus, often also at base of mucro. Inflorescences 3–9-headed racemes; raceme axes 1–3 cm long; peduncles 3–8 (–10) mm long, glabrous; heads globular, 5–7 mm diam., to 10 mm when fresh, subdense, 15–25-flowered, golden. Flowers 5-merous; sepals united into a shallowly lobed or sinuate-toothed calyx. Pods ±erect, submoniliform, to 9 cm long, 5–7 (–8) mm wide, firmly crustaceous, breaking readily at constrictions. Seeds longitudinal, oblong to widely elliptic, 4–6 mm long, dull or shiny, dark brown; aril prominent, twice-folded, orange or red.

Habitat

Grows in sand, frequently on dunes, where it may form monotypic stands.

Specimens

W.A.: 24.2 km S of Billabong on North West Coastal Hwy, *M.E.Ballingall 1896* (BRI, PERTH); 6 km inland of Point Malcolm, *R.Hnatiuk 761133* (PERTH); 8 km S of Geraldton towards Perth, *B.R.Maslin 75* (PERTH); near Fitzgerald R. crossing, Fitzgerald R. Natl Park, *B.R.Maslin 3480* (PERTH); Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse, *L.Nunn 544* (PERTH). Vic.: Barwon Heads, 11 Oct. 2004, *B.Wood s.n.* (MEL 2278502).

Notes

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, 194–197 (2004).

A member of the '*A. bivenosa* group'. Although *A. rostellifera* is somewhat variable in phyllode shape and size (e.g. see A.R.Chapman & B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 8: 250 (1992)) it is distinguished from its closest relatives by a combination of the following characters: branchlets scurfy, phyllodes thin, green, frequently punctulate (i.e. possessing minute brown peltate glandular hairs which seem to leave obscure shallow depressions in the phyllode surface), 1-nerved or with a very faint second nerve, uncinuate to subuncinate and with a distinct mucro. Specimens from around the Murchison R. have distinctly 1-nerved, narrow phyllodes (3–6 mm wide) and shorter racemes with consistently fewer flower-heads than normal. This variant extends to Shark Bay where it can be confused with *A. ligulata*. Also closely related to *A.*

xanthina, with which it appears to hybridise near Jurien Bay. Narrow, green phyllode forms of *A. blakelyi* may resemble *A. rostellifera*, but are readily distinguished by their horizontally flattened phyllodes with the gland situated on the adaxial surface (not on the adaxial margin as in *A. rostellifera*).

FOA Reference

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

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

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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