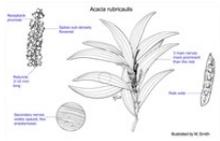


WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia rubricaulis Pedley



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.
Published at: www.worldwidewattle.com
See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Restricted to the eastern coast of Cape York Pen., Qld, between about 11° and 14°S.

Description

Shrub 2.5–6 m high. Branchlets acutely angled towards apex, often appearing polished when dry, dark red, stout, glabrous. New shoots and distal ends of developing phyllodes dark reddish brown. Phyllodes ovate or elliptic, straight and dimidiate or slightly falcate, 13.5–19 cm long, 22–42 mm wide, glabrous, 3 longitudinal nerves more prominent than the rest, free to the base or running together in the middle of the phyllode, secondary longitudinal widely spaced (1–1.5 mm apart) and openly and longitudinally anastomosing; gland usually inconspicuous, 0–5 mm above orifice small; pulvinus (5–) 7–9 (–12) mm long, dark red, polished. Inflorescences simple, 2 per axil; spikes 40–60 (–100) mm long, sub-densely flowered; receptacle variably pruinose, glabrous; peduncles 3–10 mm long, glabrous. Flowers 5-merous, perianth parts rather coriaceous; calyx gamosepalous, pruinose, very shortly and sinuately lobed. Pods (immature) narrowly oblong, not constricted between seeds, 5–6 cm long, 7–8 mm wide, possibly to 10 mm when mature, flat, glabrous, obscurely nerved. Seeds (extremely immature) longitudinal, funicle thickened, expanded into an aril.

Habitat

Grows in sand on dune fields, degraded sand dunes and creek banks. Has been recorded once from the margin of rainforest.

Specimens

Qld: S of Harmer Ck, 37 km E of "Nixon" HS, J.R.Clarkson 9133 & V.J.Neldner (BRI, MBA n.v., PERTH n.v.); 10 km N of mouth of Olive R., J.R.Clarkson 9913 & V.J.Neldner (BRI, K n.v., PERTH n.v.); Round Point, Shelburne Bay, A.Gunness AG1923 (BRI).

Notes

According to L.Pedley (*Austrobaileya* 7(2): 354–356 (2006)) *A. rubricaulis* is a distinctive plant with obscure relationships. In B.R.Maslin (coordinator), *WATTLE Acacias of Australia* CD-ROM (2001) it keys to a group of species including *A. crassa*, *A. cowleana* and *A. lamprocarpa* but its widely spaced secondary nerves point to a relationship with *A. leptocarpa*. The stout, red, strongly angular, polished branchlets, pruinose spike-rachis, thick perianth parts and pod dimensions clearly distinguish it from all other species. Its pods resemble those of an undescribed Qld species, *Acacia* sp. (Castletower N.Gibson TO1345), which, however, has close parallel nerves similar to those of *A. julifera* Benth.

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



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