

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia thoma Maslin



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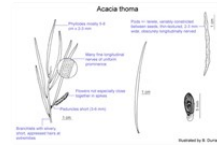
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See illustration.



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

Common Name

Thoma's Wattle

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Of scattered occurrence from near Paraburdoo in the Pilbara, S to Meekatharra and Leinster, and E to Mt Nossiter in the Little Sandy Desert, W.A.

Description

Multistemmed **shrub** (1.5–) 2–3.5 m high. Bark grey, smooth becoming **fissured** near base. **Branchlets** silvery **sericeous** between obscure ribs at extremities, **glabrescent**. Phyllodes narrowly **linear** to very narrowly **elliptic**, **straight** to shallowly **incurved**, 5–8 (–10) cm long, 2–3 (–4) mm wide, **coriaceous** to subrigid, dull green to silvery greyish green, with minute, silvery, **appressed** hairs which are confined to between the nerves with age (hairs often obscured by resin); finely multistriate with nerves of uniform prominence. Inflorescences (few seen) **simple**; peduncles 3–6 mm long, with silvery white **appressed** hairs; spikes 10–25 mm long, light golden, subdensely flowered. Flowers 5-**merous**; **calyx gamosepalous**, irregularly dissected for $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ its length, minute ($\frac{1}{5}$ – $\frac{1}{4}$ length of petals); petals 1.3–1.4 mm long. Pods submoniliform, 2–6 cm long, 2–3 mm wide, thinly **coriaceous-crustaceous**, **sericeous** between the obscure, **longitudinal** nerves. Seeds **longitudinal**, narrowly **elliptic** to **narrowly oblong-elliptic**, 4–5 mm long, shiny, dark brown; **aril** white.

Phenology

Flowers (few seen) May–June.

Habitat

Grows in rocky habitats in open *Acacia* or mulga shrublands.

Specimens

W.A.: Great Northern Highway, 12.3 km N of Meekatharra, *R.Fairman* 257 (PERTH); Little Sandy Desert, Mt Nossiter, *B.R.Maslin* 5645 (NSW, PERTH); 10 km NE of Leinster, *P.Parkinson* LCS 12856 (AD, CANB, DNA, K, MEL, MO, NSW); Mt Channar, *E.Thoma* 857 (PERTH).

Notes

Related to the more southerly distributed *A. effusifolia* (syn. *A. coolgardiensis* subsp. *effusa*); R.S.Cowan & B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 10: 22 (1995) treated the Pilbara occurrence of *A. thoma* as a northern outlier of subsp. *effusa*. *Acacia effusifolia* differs most obviously in having stems fluted (flutings absent in *A. thoma*), peduncles with red-brown glandular hairlets additional to silvery white appressed hairs, flowers larger and more densely arranged, sepals longer and normally free, and pods not or scarcely constricted between the differently shaped seeds. *Acacia thoma* is also similar to *A. cockertoniana* (see that species for differences) and *A. sibirica* which is most readily distinguished by its broader, narrowly oblong, flat pods, glabrous branchlets, phyllodes and peduncles, and longer, less divided calyx.

FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

Author

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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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