

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia victoriae Benth.



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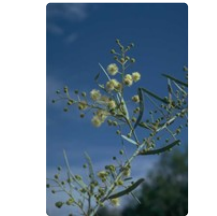
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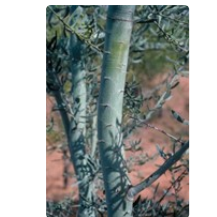
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Acacia victoriae occurrence map.
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

Common Name

Elegant Wattle, Bramble Wattle, Prickly Wattle, Gundabluie, Gundabluey, Narran and others, *vide* G.M.Cunningham *et al.*, *Pl. W New South Wales* 375 (1981)

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Widespread in all mainland States except Vic. where it occurs only in the far north-west.

Description

Shrub or **tree** 2–5 m high, sometimes to 9 m. **Branchlets** often **pruinose**, **glabrous**, sometimes hairy. **Stipules** **spinose**, commonly only bases persisting at mature nodes, 2–12 mm long. Phyllodes variable, **linear** to **narrowly oblong**, **lanceolate** or narrowly **elliptic**, **straight** or **incurved**, (1.4–) 2–5 (–10) cm long, 2–8 mm wide, lw = 2–13 (–25), green to grey-green or **glaucous**, usually **glabrous**; **midrib** prominent; **lateral nerves** usually obscure; **gland** ±basal, obscure or prominent. Inflorescences normally **racemose** but peduncles sometimes subtended by a secondary **phyllode**; **raceme axes** 1–10 cm long, slender; peduncles mostly twinned, 6–18 mm long, slender, **glabrous**, sometimes hairy; heads prolific, **globular**, 15–30-flowered, creamy white to pale lemon-yellow. Flowers 5-**merous**; sepals free, narrowly **spathulate**. Pods **narrowly oblong**, to 8 cm long, 9–16 mm wide, **chartaceous**, **glabrous**. Seeds transverse, ±**globose**, 4–6 mm long, brown, **mottled** blackish; **funicle** short, thick, scarcely arillate.

Habitat

Arid and subtropical areas in a variety of habitats but commonly in clay or loam on alluvial flats, and (especially plants identified as subsp. *arida*) in sand.

Specimens

W.A.: 8 km S of Mt Anderson, near Fitzroy R., *T.E.H.Aplin 5168* (BRI, K, PERTH); 66 km from Wittenoom towards Roebourne, *B.R.Maslin 2729* (AD, DNA, PERTH). N.T.: Lake Amadeus, *P.K.Latz 5705* (PERTH). S.A.: c. 130 km along Rig road, E of Purnie Bore, Simpson Desert, *B.Maloney 12/83* (PERTH—subsp. *arida*); Black Oak Ck, 62 km SE of Pimba, *L.Thomson 48* (PERTH). Qld: 56 km S of Boulia on road to Birdsville, *B.Maloney 20/70* (PERTH). NSW: 8.4 km E of Pulgamurtie HS, *G.A.Parr-Smith 1263* (PERTH—subsp. *arida*). Vic.: Sunset Desert N of Birthday Tank, Sunset Country, far NW Vic., *J.Luly ANU30086* (MEL).

Notes

A variable species. *Acacia victoriae* subsp. *arida* and subsp. *fasciaria* are recognized in some herbaria but are provisionally not recognized here because further study is need to better characterize them and to confirm their taxonomic status. Variation in subsp. *arida* is discussed by B.R.Maslin, *Fl. Australia* 11A: 377 (2001), and in that place subsp. *fasciaria* is represented by long-phyllode individuals cited for the Kimberley region (W.A.) and Qld. The taxonomy of the 'A. victoriae group' is discussed in B.R.Maslin, *Nuytsia* 8: 285–309 (1992) where the above-mentioned subspecies are shown in figs 7K and 7B respectively.

In the absence of flowers *A. victoriae* may be confused with *A. synchronica*, or when phyllodes are long and linear, with *A. alexandri*; *A. glaucocaesia* may ultimately be better placed within *A. victoriae*. *Acacia victoriae* is distinguished from *A. murrayana* by its commonly shorter phyllodes which lack apical glands, spinose stipules, twinned peduncles and mottled seeds.

The 'A. victoriae group' appears closely related to the '*A. pyrifolia* group'.

This species is of moderate nutritive value and a useful stock food supplement during droughts. It is also useful as a low windbreak and for soil stabilisation in dry country, especially as it can readily regenerate from suckers and sometimes forms thickets. Numbers may increase markedly during a succession of wet seasons and can become a nuisance, especially around watering points. The utilisation and ecology of the species are fully discussed in J.W.Turnbull (ed.), *Multipurpose Austral. Trees & Shrubs* (1986). The foliage and range condition indicator values of *A. victoriae* are discussed by A.A.Mitchell & D.G.Wilcox, *Arid Shrubland Pl. W. Australia* 290 (1988). Further 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, 222–226 (2004).

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:



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Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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