**WATTLE**

*Acacias of Australia*

*Acacia xiphophylla* E.Pritz.

Common Name

Snake-wood

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

W.A., widespread across the Pilbara from Shark Bay NE to near Roebourne and Roy Hill, with one collection from near Wiluna.

Description

Shrub or tree 3–7 m high, often gnarled, bushy, main branches often rather contorted and widely spreading. Branchlets glabrous or sparingly appressed-puberulous. Phyllodes ascending, narrowly elliptic to narrowly obo-long-elliptic, tapering to acute or acuminate apex and long-attenuate base, straight to slightly curved, 5–12.5 cm long, (5–) 6–13 (–16) mm wide, rigid, ± glaucous, sericeous, glabrescent, with numerous very obscure closely parallel nerves; central nerve sometimes slightly raised. Inflorescences rudimentary 1- or 2-headed racemes with axes c. 0.2 mm long, often growing out; peduncles 5–7 (–17) mm long, ± appressed-puberulous; spikes 2.5–5.5 cm long, 5–7 mm diam., loosely flowered, light golden; receptacle appressed-hairy. Flowers mostly 5-merous; sepals 1/4–1/3 length of petals, united, often golden-puberulous. Pods pendulous, linear, raised over and sometimes constricted between seeds, straight to slightly curved, 8–20 cm long, (7–) 9–15 (–18) mm wide, crustaceous-woody, irregularly coarsely reticulate, glabrous, shining. Seeds longitudinal, broadly elliptic, 6–10 mm long, peripherally crested, dull, brown; aril/funicle fleshy.

Habitat

Grows on sometimes subsaline clay flats, stony plains and hills, in Acacia shrubland and low woodland, dominating in localised areas.

Specimens


Notes

Seemingly most closely related to the more southerly distributed *A. burrowsiana*. Superficially similar to the flat phyllode variant of *A. intorta*; and to *A. eremaea* (sect. *Plurinerves*). Perhaps related to *A. harmersleyensis* which is most readily distinguished by its more obvious phyllode nerves, denser spikes, more deeply divided, white-villous calyx and pilose pods.