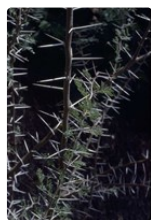


# WATTLE

## Acacias of Australia

### *Vachellia karroo* (Hayne) Banfi & Galasso



Source: Australian Plant Image Index (a.31119).  
ANBG © M. Fagg, 1989



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

#### Common Name

Karoo Thorn

#### Family

Fabaceae

#### Distribution

Native to large parts of southern Africa. Formerly naturalized near Perth, W.A. (now eradicated) and occurred in a small area on the Darling Downs, Qld (now eradicated but subject to ongoing surveillance); also recorded from vacant land in Newcastle, N.S.W.

#### Description

**Multi-stemmed shrub** or (according to J.H.Ross, *loc. cit.*) a **tree** to 12 (–20) m high, crown  $\pm$ **rounded** or flat-topped. Bark brown to black and rough or greyish and smooth. Branchlets **glabrous**, dark brown, **lenticellular**. Stipular spines 5.5–12 cm long, **rigid, patent, straight, terete**, white. Leaves arising from within **axil** of spines and also from **branch** immediately above spines, sometimes grouped 2 or 3 together; **petiole** 5–10 mm long, channelled above, **glabrous**, with a quite prominent **gland** (1–1.5 mm long) on **adaxial** surface near base; **rachis** 15–30 mm long, **glabrous**, channelled above, with a small **gland** at base of **pinnae**; **pinnae** 2–3 pairs, (15–) 20–40 mm long; pinnules 6–12 pairs, **narrowly oblong** to **oblong-oblancoolate**, 3.5–8 mm long, 1–2.5 mm wide, **glabrous**, green, **concolorous**, obscurely 1-nerved, sometimes with small **gland** at base of some pairs. Inflorescences (based on J.H.Ross, *loc. cit.*) single or fascicled; peduncles 7–24 (–40) mm long, with **involucl** of bracts 1/3–3/4 from the base; heads **globular**, bright yellow. Pods (based on J.H.Ross, *loc. cit.*) **linear**,  $\pm$ constricted between the seeds, often distinctly **moniliform**, (4–) 5–1.5 (–21) cm long, 5–7 (–11) mm wide, dehiscent, normally **curved**, longitudinally nerved, **glabrous** or sometimes **tomentulose**.

#### Specimens

Qld: 'Condamine Plains', c. 20 km N of Pampas on Cecil Plains Rd, May 2008, *P.Hodgson s.n.* (BRI 783604). N.S.W.: Carrington, in vacant ground within the industrial area of Newcastle, 7 Oct. 1969, *J.M. Turnbull s.n.* (NSW149784).

#### Notes

Based on molecular and other data *Acacia sens. lat.* is now considered as comprising a number of segregate genera, see J.T.Miller & D.S.Seigler, *Austral. Syst. Bot.* 25: 217–224 (2012) for overview. Many taxa in the former *Acacia* subg. *Acacia* are now referable to the genus *Vachellia*, including the one presented here.

This species is comprehensively described in J.H.Ross, *loc. cit.*

Unless otherwise stated the above description is based on the few sterile specimens in Australian herbaria.

#### FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

#### 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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