

# WATTLE

## Acacias of Australia

### *Acacia pyrifolia* DC. var. *pyrifolia*



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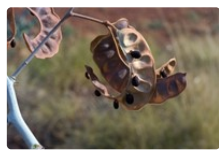
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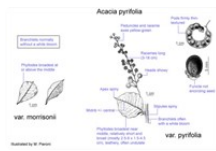
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*Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia* occurrence map.  
Occurrence map generated via Atlas of Living  
Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au>).

### Common Name

Ranji Bush

### Family

Fabaceae

### Distribution

Widespread from Carnarvon and Meekatharra N to the Pilbara region and Rudall R., and also the southern Kimberley region from near Windjana Gorge to near Halls Creek. It is especially common in the Pilbara where it occurs throughout the region, including some of the off-shore islands.

### Description

Straggly and normally openly branched **shrub**, rarely **prostrate**. **Branchlets** often conspicuously **pruinose**. **Stipules** 3–8 (–10) mm long, spiny, normally **rigid** and rather robust, frequently **persistent** on old wood where phyllodes have fallen. Phyllodes **elliptic** to **oblong-elliptic** or **orbicular**, rarely **obovate**, mostly 2.5–6 (–7) cm long and 1.5–4.5 cm wide, **coriaceous**, commonly blue-grey but ranging to **glaucous**, **sub-glaucous** or grey-green, occasionally green, variably **pruinose**.

### Phenology

Flowers May–Oct., main flush in July and Aug.

### Habitat

Grows principally along watercourses (often with *A. bivenosa*, *A. coriacea* subsp. *pendens* and/or *A. trachycarpa*) and water-gaining sites where it often forms dense populations. Typically favours clay soils with a pebble surface strew. Variety *pyrifolia* readily colonises disturbed sites (e.g. road verges) and regenerates well (from seed) following fire.

### Specimens

W.A.: 14.5 km S of Exmouth, *K.M.Allan* 475 (CANB, K, PERTH); Gascoyne R. South, on Great Northern Hwy between Meekatharra and Newman, *M.E.Ballingall* 1827 (BRI, MEL, PERTH); 10 km from Dampier towards Karratha, *B.R.Maslin* 2760 (CANB, K, MEL, PERTH); 18.4 km SSW of Flora Valley Stn, *R.A.Perry* 2495 & *M.Lazarides* (K, NSW, PERTH).

### Notes

Indigenous usage of *A. pyrifolia* in the Pilbara is discussed in B.R.Maslin *et al.*, *loc.cit.*

Specimens with non-pruinose branchlets and green, non-pruinose phyllodes are scattered throughout the range of the species (e.g. Burrup Pen.) and are sometimes confused with var. *morrisonii*. An uncommon, single-stemmed, spindly form with very sparse foliage and pruinose stems occurs in the Pilbara and elsewhere; it resembles the rare *A. aphanoclada* × *pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia* which has more elongate phyllodes (l:w not above 2 in var. *pyrifolia*, 4–7 in the hybrid).

#### 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:



Australian Government  
Department of the Environment and Energy



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Biodiversity, Conservation  
and Attractions  
Western Australian Herbarium



Australian  
Biological  
Resources  
Study



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