

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia sphaerostachya E.Pritz.



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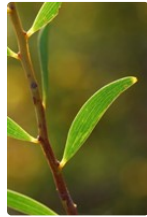
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See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Largely confined to the Pilbara region, W.A., but does extend northwards to the vicinity of Wallal Downs Stn (between Port Hedland and Broome). Within the Pilbara it has a scattered distribution mostly between Karratha and the vicinity of Port Hedland with outliers in a few places, e.g. near Wittenoom and Cane River Stn, SE of Onslow.

Description

Dense, spreading, glabrous, slightly resinous shrub 1–2.5 m high. Phyllodes asymmetrically lanceolate to narrowly elliptic, commonly shallowly recurved (at least towards the apex) but ranging from straight to prominently recurved or sometimes shallowly sigmoid, 2.5–5 (–6) cm long, (3–) 4–7 (–10) mm wide, acute to acuminate (the apical point thickened and conical), bright green, with longitudinal nerves numerous, parallel with a few sometimes anastomosing, nerves mostly very indistinct (obscured by surface wrinkling when dry) with 1–3 more evident than the rest. Inflorescences simple, 1 or 2 in axils; spike obloid to shortly cylindrical, 7–15 (–20) mm long, golden; peduncles (6–) 9–20 (–25) mm long. Flowers 5-merous; buds ±acute and subdensely arranged. Pods linear to narrowly oblong, narrowed at base, flat, 6–8.5 cm long, 5–7 mm wide, erect, coriaceous-crustaceous to sub-woody, straight, valves normally recurved following dehiscence, brown, longitudinally nerved; margins slightly thickened. Seeds longitudinal to longitudinally oblique, seated in distinct chambers, oblong to elliptic, 6–7 mm long, 3–3.5 mm wide, compressed, dark brown; funicle-aril ±turbinate, white.

Phenology

Flowers recorded Feb., Mar., June., July. & Oct.; probably related to rainfall events.

Specimens

W.A.: 2 km SE of Telfer Mine, *D.Goble-Garrett 304* (NSW, PERTH); Karratha, near Government Nursery, *B.R.Maslin 4714* (CANB, K, PERTH); 41.1 km W of turnoff to Eighty Mile Beach camping ground (near Wallal Downs) on Great Northern Hwy, *L.Thomson LXT1173* (PERTH).

Notes

Acacia patellaris Domin (1926) and *A. glabripes* Maiden and Blakely (1928) were based on different specimens of the same E.Clements gathering collected from between the Ashburton R. and De Grey R. in NW W.A.; these names were treated as Dubious Names by M.D.Tindale, *Fl. Australia* 11B: 442 & 439 (2001). The narrow phyllode entity described as *A. sphaerostachya* var. *angustior* by Pritzel was also treated as a Dubious Name by M.D.Tindale, *Flora of Australia* 11B: 444 (2001); it is referable to *A. sphaerostachya* but not considered worthy of formal recognition.

The entity described here as *A. sphaerostachya* is almost certainly a hybrid between *A. stellaticeps* and *A. ancistrocarpa*; the two parents and *A. sphaerostachya* have been recorded as sympatric in a number of places.

FOA Reference

Data derived from *Flora of Australia* Volumes 11A (2001), 11B (2001) and 12 (1998), products of ABRS, ©Commonwealth of Australia

Author

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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