

Racosperma spp. syn. *Acacia* spp.

Previously this group of evergreen trees have been known as different *Acacia* spp. In volume four of the New Zealand Flora published in 1988 the name *Racosperma* separated the mainly Australian wattles from the African wattles that have retained the generic name *Acacia* based on a paper by Pedley, L., *Bot Jour. Linn. Soc.*92: 219-284 (1986).

Wattles belong to the legume family and are categorised by botanists in either the sub family Mimosoideae of the Leguminosae (or Fabaceae family), or in the Mimosaceae family. Either way, the fruit of wattles are legumes (pods), the leaves are usually pinnate or bipinnately divided, some are phyllodic and they are all nitrogen fixers. Like other legumes, wattles are good on poorer soils and are generally fast growing. Leaves or phyllodes are alternately arranged.

Racosperma baileyana syn. *Acacia baileyana* (Cootamundra wattle)

This example can be seen on the south side of Farm Road opposite the Winery. It is a small tree with a rounded shape. This tree is flowers about July each year with masses of tiny spherical bunches of golden yellow flowers. The showy parts of the flowers are the stamens giving each inflorescence a furry look about it. Petals are tiny and only seen under low magnification. Leaves are bipinnately compound.



Mid winter flowering



Few pods are produced on this particular tree.



Farm Road, almost opposite the Winery

tree n.e. of Student Flats on

Racosperma dealbatum syn. *Acacia dealbata* (silver wattle)

This is represented in the coppice area in the Horticultural Research Area beyond the southeast corner of the Amenity area. (Far western end of Farm Road). Silver wattles are relatively fast growing medium sized trees. They may sucker under some circumstances and are suitable for poor dryer soils. Flowering occurs in late winter to early spring. Flowers are yellow, usually produced in great numbers. Leaves are bipinnately compound.



tree in coppice block s.e. of Amenity



bipinnately compound leaves

Racosperma floribundum syn. *Acacia floribunda* (gossamer wattle)

This species is to the north of the student flats opposite the winery on Farm Road. It is a small, fast growing tree. The flowers are golden yellow as seen below and the leaves are phyllodes. The phyllodes are linear 90-110mm or so long by about 7mm across, sometimes slightly curved. The flowers are densely arranged in cylindrical spikes. Flowering is usually late winter.



Student Flats n. - Farm Road,
also north and west of Lodge.



narrow linear
phyllodes and flowers borne in long cylindrical inflorescences

Racosperma melanoxydon syn. *Acacia melanoxydon* (Tasmanian blackwood)

This is a widely used exotic timber tree in parts of New Zealand. Its leaves are reduced to phyllodes to 100mm by 20mm across. These are glabrous, entire with 3-4 prominent veins. Flowers are creamy yellow in clusters from late winter to mid spring. This tree is in the coppice block to the south east of the Amenity area of the Hort. Research area.



trees in the Brandenburg coppice to the south east of the Amenity area



adult phyllodes



change from juvenile bipinnately compound leaves to phyllodes

Racosperma pravissima syn. *Acacia pravissima* (Ovens wattle)

This is small tree or largish shrub with a rounded habit of growth. Like most other wattles it has a moderately fast growth rate and grows well on poor soils in open full sun areas. This species is easily recognised with its small deltoid or triangular shaped phyllodes. Flowers are bright yellow in late winter and early spring. This specimen is north of the student flats on the western end of Farm Road, there is another opposite the Hort. Nursery on Farm road just to the south of the NZ Crickets grounds office.



Student Flats n.w. – Farm Road



Triangular shaped phyllodes

Racosperma rubida syn. *Acacia rubida* (red stemmed wattle)

This is a small, delightfully scented wattle growing near the south west corner of the Field Service Centre lecture theatre. This tree clearly has the capacity to naturalise, although not mentioned in Vol. four of the New Zealand Flora. This tree is a seedling from the original tree that died for some reason or other. This tree is useful as the juvenile growth often displays bipinnately compound leaves and some transitional forms between the adult phyllodes also produced. (See seedling below). The flowers are yellow and produced during late winter.



west entrance to Field Services Centre from car park on western side of FSC lecture theatre

Robinia pseudoacacia (robinia, false locust)

This tree is near the eastern end of the Commerce Building, there are others on campus including a tree south west of the Horticultural teaching Laboratory on Farm Road and one on the west side of the Winery. Robinias are fast growing deciduous trees with pinnately compound leaves alternately arranged, stems are usually armed with sharp thorns. White pea shaped flowers are seen in mid spring. This species can be a problem with suckering.



tree east of Commerce Building.



pea shaped flowers



pinnately compound leaves and thorns

Salix matsudana (Peking willow, matsudana willow)

This is a fast growing deciduous tree frequently used for shelter and trimmed from time to time. There is an example of a matsudana shelter belt on the eastern boundary of the Field Service Centre and Springs Road south of Gate 3. Like other willows and poplars in the Salicaceae this species is dioecious.



shelter trees side and top trimmed mechanically



Springs Road, east of Field Services Centre



Leaves simple, alternately arranged, linear to lanceolate, glabrous, finely serrated margins, blue-green beneath, branches erect or spreading.

Saxegothaea conspicua (Prince Albert's yew)

This is a slow growing tree located in the Amenity area on the n.w. corner of the podocarp collection. It is a South American species from Southern Chile and adjacent parts of Argentina.



growth of this species has generally been slower than that of the New Zealand podocarps nearby.



Lanceolate leaves 15-30mm long x 2mm, usually dark green above with 2 white-blue stomatal bands beneath. Cones are approx 10mm across with 15-20 scales.

Sciadopitys verticillata (Japanese umbrella pine)

This is a beautifully symmetrical growing tree that somewhat resembles a very formal pine. The only example of this tree is growing in the Amenity area toward the northern end. It is a slow growing tree that had to be protected from rabbits and hares whilst it was young. The fresh green foliage resembles double barrelled pine needles fused for their whole length, approximately 12cm or so in length. The cones are about 75mm long and egg shaped. To date this species has not produced cones.



attractive conical form and slow growth rate



Appears to be like a pine, but has double barrelled needles in whorls