

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia epacantha (Maslin) Maslin



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See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Restricted to the Eneabba–Dandaragan area, south-western W.A.

Description

Shrub 0.3-0.5 m high, dense, spreading. Branchlet indumentum variable. Axillary spines 1 per node, 1-2 cm long. Pinnae 1 pair, usually 1-2 mm long; apices acute, 0.5-1.5 mm long and normally dark brown; petiole normally < 0.5 mm long; terminal seta 1.5-3 mm long, dark brown; pinnules 2 pairs, usually 6-10 mm long and 0.7-1.5 mm wide, revolute, green, glabrous to hirsutellous; gland on petiole at base of pinnae, sessile, minute. Inflorescences simple, situated near or above middle of axillary spine; peduncles 7-10 mm long, appressed-puberulous to glabrous; heads globular, 23-26-flowered, golden; bracteoles acuminate, exserted in buds. Flowers 5-merous; sepals 1/2-3/4-united. Pods curved to circinnate, 1.5-4 cm long, 4-7 mm wide, shortly villous with shiny and straight or subcrisped hairs. Seeds longitudinal, oblong to circular, 2.5-3.5 mm long.

Habitat

Grows in lateritic loam or clay, in heath and open Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) woodland.

Specimens

W.A.: N of Dandaragan, *C.A.Gardner 9285* (PERTH); 5 km S of Mt Lesueur, *E.A.Griffin 2662* (PERTH); SE corner of Reserve 38966 SE of Eneabba off Rose Thompson Rd, *M.Hislop 3276* (PERTH); 15 km N of Badgingarra, *P.G.Wilson 3838* (AD, BRI, PERTH).

Notes

The specimen *M.Hislop 3276* from within the geographic range of the species has atypically large leaves, pinnae to 8 mm long and pinnules to 16 mm long and 4 mm wide.

Acacia epacantha and *A. fagonioides* are unique members of the '*A. pulchella* group' in having inflorescences borne on axillary spines which commonly have the appearance of short branchlets. The long, revolute pinnules readily distinguish *A. epacantha*.

FOA Reference

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

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This identification key and fact sheets are available as a mobile application:



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and Attractions
Western Australian Herbarium



Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



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