

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia ophiolithica R.S.Cowan & Maslin



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.
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See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Restricted to and locally common in the Jerdacuttup R. area E of Ravensthorpe township in south-western W.A.

Description

Bushy rounded shrub 0.3–2 m high. Branchlets glabrous, scarred by raised stem-projections where phyllodes have fallen. Phyllodes congested, ascending to erect, becoming patent, very slender, straight, terete, 1.5–4.5 cm long, 0.7–1 mm diam., abruptly and obliquely narrowed to a short but distinct excentric mucro, glabrous, seemingly 4- or 8-nerved but nerves very indistinct or more commonly not visible; gland often not evident, 6–14 mm above pulvinus; pulvinus slender, terete, 1.5–2 mm long, orange. Inflorescences simple, 2 per axil; peduncles filiform, 5–13 mm long, glabrous; heads globular, 3–3.5 mm diam., 10–15-flowered, bright light golden. Flowers predominantly 5-merous; sepals free. Pods linear, slightly raised over seeds on alternating sides, not constricted between seeds, straight or slightly curved, 3–4 cm long, 2–3 mm wide, thinly coriaceous, reddish brown, glabrous; margins thickened, yellow. Seeds (slightly immature) longitudinal, oblong to obovate, c. 2 mm long, slightly shiny, dark brown; aril subterminal.

Habitat

Grows in brown to pale yellow-brown clay or clay loam derived from serpentine, sometimes rocky, on river banks and beneath mallee eucalypts, often forming dense stands.

Specimens

W.A.: c. 13 km E of Ravensthorpe, 20 Aug. 1979, *E.M. Bennett s.n.* (AD, K, MEL, NY, PERTH); Jerdacuttup R. elbow, *C.A. Gardner 14083* (PERTH); 22.5 km E of Ravensthorpe on Hwy No. 1 to Esperance, *B.R. Maslin 5461* (BM, CANB, G, MO, PERTH, Z).

Notes

A member of the '*A. fragilis* group', differing in its habitat from its presumed closest relative, *A. uncinella*, which also differs in having discernibly 8-nerved phyllodes and shorter peduncles bearing heads with more flowers. It is sufficiently similar to *A. uncinella* that G. Bentham, *Fl. Austral.* 2: 341 (1864: 341), cited a G. Maxwell collection of *A. ophiolithica* from the Oldfield R. area as *A. uncinella*. It is sympatric with and superficially resembles *A. binata* which is most readily distinguished by its fleshy, obtuse phyllodes, larger flower-heads in short, 2-headed racemes and its curved to openly coiled pods.

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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Minor edits by J.Reid

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



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