

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Senegalia rugata (Lam.) Britton & Rose



Source: WorldWideWattle ver. 2.
Published at: www.worldwidewattle.com
See illustration.



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

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

This species is widespread in tropical SE Asia, including Papua New Guinea, *vide* I.C.Nielsen, *Fl. Malesiana* 11: 49 (1992). It is adventive in Australia where it is known from only two localities in north-eastern Qld; the Mossman plants were eradicated in 1974 because of their weed potential and a new population, at Gregory Falls (E of Innisfail), was discovered in 1998.

Description

Woody climber. Branchlets with patchy or sparsely distributed long weak **crisped** hairs, occasionally **glabrous**, with wide ribs and **scattered**, robust, **recurved** prickles up to 2 mm long along the ribs. Leaves: **petiole** 1.5–3.5 cm long, with an **elliptic gland** at about the middle; **rachis** (4–) 5–10 cm long, with **scattered abaxial** prickles on some leaves, **gland** present at base of uppermost pair of **pinnae**; **pinnae** 4–6 pairs, 3–7 cm long; leaflets 12–24 pairs per **pinna**, 6.5–9 mm long, 1.8–2.5 mm wide, **oblong**, **±obtusate**, **mucronulate**, asymmetrically **truncate** at base, **midrib oblique** (arising at leading edge of **leaflet** and extending to about the middle of the **leaflet** at the apex), 3 or 4 **lateral** veins with distinct **reticulum** between them, with sparse long loose hairs on both surfaces or hairs confined to margins. Inflorescences single or in 2's or 3's in upper axils, the subtending leaves often not developing and heads forming a **raceme** or **panicle**; heads **globular**, 30–40-flowered; peduncles 1.5–3 cm long, **indumentum** similar to that of **branchlets**; buds red or purplish red, open flowers cream. Flowers 5-**merous**, **sessile**; **calyx** 1.5–3 mm long, shortly lobed, **glabrous**; **corolla** 2.5–3 mm long, lobed to about level of the **calyx**. Pods and seeds not seen.

Specimens

Qld: Rocky Point area, c. 11 km N of Mossman, 19 Sept. 1974, *A.J.Twomey s.n.* (BRI 185989); Gregory Falls, Reserve 842 Parish of Johnstone, *B.P.M.Hyland 13817* (BRI, ex QRS – distributed as *Acacia albizioides*).

Notes

As noted by L.Pedley (*l.c.*) there is an entity of uncertain taxonomic status from the Townsville-Ayr region and the Mulgrave valley (a little S of Cairns), Qld. It differs from *S. rugata* as described above in having more pinnae and more leaflets per pinna, and its leaflets have a less distinct venation, are shortly appressed pubescent beneath and have a short but distinct petiolule (0.4 mm long). It is described by collectors as a bush or climber and occurs in open forest, not rainforest as does *S. rugata*. Material of this entity match a collection from Guangdong Prov., China, received at BRI as "*Acacia sinuata*".

Based on molecular and other data *Acacia sens. lat.* is now considered as comprising a number of segregate genera, see J.T.Miller & D.S.Seigler, *Austral. Syst. Bot.* 25: 217–224 (2012) for overview. Many taxa in the former *Acacia* subg. *Aculeiferum* are now referable to the genus *Senegalia*, including the one presented here.

This species was not included in the *Fl. Australia* 11A (2001) but it was treated, as *A. sinuata*, by L.Pedley in B.R.Maslin (coordinator), *WATTLE Acacias of Australia* CD-ROM (2001).

As discussed by I.C.Nielsen, *Adansonia* 19(3): 349 (1980), the entities described as *Acacia rugata* and *Acacia concinna* have at times been treated as separate species or as varieties of the one species, but he considered that they are conspecific and correctly applied the name *A. concinna* to the combined entity. Under *Senegalia*, however, the correct name for this entity is *S. rugata* (see synonymy above). I.C.Nielsen (*Adansonia* 19(3): 349 (1980)) provisionally referred *A. sinuata* to *A. concinna*.

FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

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



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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