



Flora of Australia

Acacia victoriae Benth.

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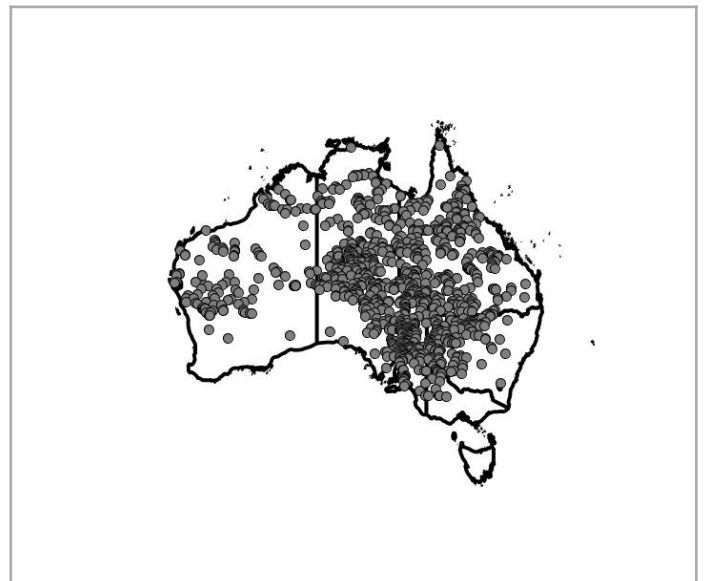
***Acacia victoriae* Benth.**

- Bentham, G. in Mitchell, T.L. (1848), *Journal of an Expedition into the Interior of Tropical Australia* : 333

B.R. Maslin

Shrub or tree 2–5 m high, sometimes to 9 m. Branchlets often pruinose, glabrous, sometimes hairy. Stipules spinose, commonly only bases persisting at mature nodes, 2–12 mm long. Phyllodes variable, linear to narrowly oblong, lanceolate or narrowly elliptic, straight or incurved, (1.4–) 2–5 (–10) cm long, 2–8 mm wide, l: w = 2–13 (–25), green to grey-green or glaucous, usually glabrous; midrib prominent; lateral nerves usually obscure; gland \pm basal, obscure or prominent. Inflorescences normally racemose but peduncles sometimes subtended by a secondary phyllode; raceme axes 1–10 cm long, slender; peduncles mostly twinned, 6–18 mm long, slender, glabrous, sometimes hairy; heads prolific, globular, 15–30-flowered, creamy white to pale lemon-yellow. Flowers 5-merous; sepals free, narrowly spatulate. Pods narrowly oblong, to 8 cm long, 9–16 mm wide, chartaceous, glabrous. Seeds transverse, \pm globose, 4–6 mm long, brown, mottled blackish; funicle short, thick, scarcely arillate.

Distribution: Widespread in all mainland states except Victoria where it occurs only in the far northwest.



Etymology: Named after a river in central Queensland, which in turn was named after Queen Victoria (1819–1901). The name of the river was later changed to the Aboriginal name Barcoo.

Common Name: Bramble Wattle, Elegant Wattle, Elegant Acacia, Prickly Wattle, Gundabluiie, Gundabluey, Narran, Pin Bush, Royal Acacia, Acacia Bush, Bohemia.

Phenology: Flowers (July–) August–October (–December).

Biostatus: Native.

Habitat: Arid and subtropical areas in a variety of habitats but commonly in clay or loam on alluvial flats, and (especially plants identified as subsp. *arida*) in sand.

Ecology: The ecology of the species is discussed in J.W. Turnbull (ed.), *Multipurpose Australian Trees and Shrubs* 210–213 (1986), B.R. Maslin & M.W. McDonald, *AcaciaSearch: Evaluation of Acacia as a woody crop option for southern Australia*, RIRDC Publication No. 30/017, 222–226 (2004) and D.J. Boland *et al.*, *Forest Trees of Australia* 5th edn, 188–189 (2006).

Representative Herbarium Specimens: W.A.: 8 km S of Mount Anderson, near Fitzroy River, *T.E.H. Aplin* 5168 (BRI, K, PERTH); 66 km from Wittenoom towards Roebourne, *B.R. Maslin* 2729 (AD, DNA, PERTH).

N.T.: Lake Amadeus, *P.K. Latz* 5705 (PERTH).

S.A.: c. 130 km along Rig road, E of Purnie Bore, Simpson Desert, *B. Maloney* 12/83 (PERTH—subsp. *arida*); Black Oak Creek, 62 km SE of Pimba, *L. Thomson* 48 (PERTH).

Qld: 56 km S of Boulia on road to Birdsville, *B. Maloney* 20/70 (PERTH).

NSW: 8.4 km E of Pulgamurtie Homestead, *G.A. Parr-Smith* 1263 (PERTH—subsp. *arida*).

Vic.: Sunset Desert N of Birthday Tank, Sunset Country, far NW Vic., *J. Luly* ANU30086 (MEL).

Uses: This species is of moderate nutritive value and a useful stock food supplement during droughts. It is also useful as a low windbreak and for soil stabilisation in dry country, especially as it can readily regenerate from suckers and sometimes forms thickets. Numbers may increase markedly during a succession of wet seasons and can become a nuisance, especially around watering points.

The utilisation and ecology of the species are discussed in G.M. Cunningham *et al.*, *Plants of Western New South Wales* 375 (1981), J.W. Turnbull (ed.), *Multipurpose Australian Trees and Shrubs* 210–213 (1986) and D.J. Boland *et al.*, *Forest Trees of Australia* 5th edn, 188–189 (2006). The foliage and range condition indicator values of *A. victoriae* are discussed by A.A. Mitchell & D.G. Wilcox, *Arid Shrubland Plants of Western Australia* 290 (1988). Further information on the biological and ecological features, and the utilisation potential, of this species is given in B.R. Maslin & M.W. McDonald, *AcaciaSearch: Evaluation of Acacia as a woody crop option for southern Australia*, RIRDC Publication No. 30/017, 222–226 (2004).

Acacia victoriae is commonly used as human food (wattle seed) in the Australian bushfood or bush tucker industry; a diversity of uses in baking, etc. The flour has been incorporated into bread, damper, biscuits and pasta, and processed seeds have been incorporated into products such as dessert cones, mousses, pancakes, ice cream and hot beverages; see B.R. Maslin *et al.*, *Edible Wattle Seeds of Southern Australia* (1998) and references therein. Roasted ground wattle seed, with its nutty flavour, is added to desserts, chocolate and coffee, as well as being used for thickening sauces and casseroles.

Acacia victoriae contains compounds called avicins, which may have medicinal uses (Hanausek *et al.* 2001a & b, Haridas *et al.* 2001).

Acacia victoriae features on the \$10 Australian banknote released on 20 September 2017, as part of the Next Generation of Banknotes featuring Australian native wattles and birds.

Ethnobotany: Aboriginal language names and uses of *Acacia victoriae* in the Northern Territory are included in *FloraNT* at <http://eflora.nt.gov.au/factsheet?id=3576>

The plant has been used for food (green pods, mature seeds, gum), spears, weapons, implements, firewood, fish-poisons and traps, shade and shelter (O'Connell *et al.* 1983, Latz 1995, Maslin *et al.* 1998).

Nomenclature and Typification: *Acacia victoriae* Benth., in T.L. Mitchell, *Journal of an Expedition into the Interior of Tropical Australia* 333 (1848); *Acacia sentis* F.Muell. ex Benth., *Flora Australiensis* 2: 360 (1864), *nom. illeg.* (includes type of *A. victoriae*); *A. sentis* var. *victoriae* (Benth.) Domin, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89: 254 (1926); *Racosperma victoriae* (Benth.) Pedley, *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 92: 249 (1986). Type: 'Victoria River' [= Barcoo River, 24°40'S, 146°01'E], Qld, 1 Oct. 1846, *T.L. Mitchell* '620'; holo: K; iso: CGE.

Acacia sentis F.Muell., *Second Gen. Rep.* 12 (1854), *nom. nud.*; *Pl. Victoria* 2: 18 (1863), *nom. inval.* (not effectively published).

Acacia decora var. *spinescens* Benth. (sphalm. '*pinescens*'), *Linnaea* 26: 620 (1855). Type: between Flinders Ra. and Spencers Gulf, S.A., *F. Mueller s.n.*; syn: K; Darling R., N.S.W., *F. Mueller s.n.*; *n.v.*

Acacia hanniana Domin, *Biblioth. Bot.* 89: 253 (1926). Type: Cape York Peninsula [Palmer River, *fide* L. Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 271, 1980], Qld, *W. Hann* 59; holo: K. The seeds mounted on the type sheet are possibly those of *Distichostemon malvaceus*, *fide* L. Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 271 (1980).

Acacia coronalis J.M.Black, *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia* 71(1): 20 (1947). Type: Crown Point, Finke R., N.T.; *n.v.*, *fide* B.R. Maslin, *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens* 2: 319 (1980).

?*Acacia victoriae* subsp. *arida* Pedley, *Austrobaileya* 1: 271 (1980). Type: Poeppel Corner, Qld, Sept. 1966, *D.*

Boyland 254; holo: BRI; iso: K n.v.

?*Acacia victoriae* subsp. *fasciaria* Ariati, *Australian Systematic Botany* 20: 61, fig. 1b (2007). Type: Burke region, Beames Brook, Qld., 31 May 2000, 25 km SW of Burketown, B.S. Wannan 1838 and R.L. Jago; holo: NSW; iso: BRI, MEL.

[*Acacia decora* auct. non Rchb.: G. Bentham, *Linnaea* 26: 620 (1855) and F.J.H. von Mueller, *Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society, Botany* 3: 128 (1859)]

Notes: A variable species. *Acacia victoriae* subsp. *arida* and subsp. *fasciaria* are recognised in some herbaria but are provisionally not recognised here because further study is need to better characterise them and to confirm their taxonomic status. Variation in subsp. *arida* is discussed by B.R. Maslin, *Flora of Australia* 11A: 377 (2001), and in that place subsp. *fasciaria* is represented by long-phyllode individuals cited for the Kimberley region (Western Australia) and Queensland. The taxonomy of the 'A. *victoriae* group' is discussed in B.R. Maslin, *Nuytsia* 8: 285–309 (1992) where the above-mentioned subspecies are shown in figs 7K and 7B respectively.

In the absence of flowers *A. victoriae* may be confused with *A. synchronicia*, or when phyllodes are long and linear, with *A. alexandri*; *A. glaucocaesia* may ultimately be better placed within *A. victoriae*. *Acacia victoriae* is distinguished from *A. murrayana* by its commonly shorter phyllodes which lack apical glands, spinose stipules, twinned peduncles and mottled seeds.

The 'Acacia *victoriae* group' appears closely related to the 'Acacia *pyrifolia* group'.

Illustrations: F.J.H. von Mueller, *Iconography of Australian species of Acacia and Cognate Genera* dec. 4 (1887), as *Acacia sentis*; K. Askew & A.S. Mitchell, *Fodder Trees & Shrubs N. Terr.* 23 (1978); G.M. Cunningham *et al.*, *Plants of Western New South Wales* 375 (1981); L.F. Costermans, *Native Trees and Shrubs of South-eastern Australia* 316 (1981); M. Simmons, *Acacias of Australia* 181 (1981); R.J. Petheram & B. Kok, *Plants of the Kimberley Region of Western Australia* 282 (1983); B.R. Maslin 8(2): 306, fig. 7 (1992); T. Tame, *Acacias of Southeast Australia* 171, fig. 194, pl. 194 (1992); J.R. Wheeler, in J.R. Wheeler (ed.) *et al.*, *Flora of the Kimberley Region* 334, fig. 99D (1992); D.J.E. Whibley & D.E. Symon, *Acacias of South Australia* 2nd edn, 69 & 71 (1992); T.J. Entwisle, B.R. Maslin, R.S. Cowan & A.B. Court, in N.G. Walsh & T.J. Entwisle (eds), *Flora of Victoria* 3: 648, fig. 130i (1996); B.R. Maslin & M.W. McDonald, *A Key to Useful Australian Acacias for the Seasonally Dry Tropics* 76–77 (1996); G. Lithgow, *60 Wattles of the Chinchilla and Murilla Shires* 51 (1997); B.R. Maslin *et al.*, *Edible Wattle Seeds of Southern Australia* 24–28 (1998); B.R. Maslin, *Flora of Australia* 11A: 380, fig. 40A–M (2001); P.G. Kodela & G.J. Harden, in G.J. Harden (ed.), *Flora of New South Wales* 2nd edn, 2: 464 (2002); D.J. Boland *et al.*, *Forest Trees of Australia* 5th edn, 189 (2006); B.R. Maslin & S. van Leeuwen, *Wattles of the Pilbara* 66–67 (2008); B.R. Maslin *et al.*, *Wattles of the Pilbara* (2010).

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98: 11551–11556. <http://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/98/20/11551.full.pdf>

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<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11572998>

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Conservation Status

VIC - Near Threatened

NT - Least Concern

Nomenclature

Links

CHAH (2014), *Australian Plant Census*

nomenclatural synonym: *Acacia sentis* var. *victoriae* (Benth.) Domin
 Factsheet on distribution, flowering, seeds, cultivation and uses

nomenclatural synonym: *Racosperma victoriae* (Benth.) Pedley

taxonomic synonym: *Acacia sentis* F.Muell.

taxonomic synonym: *Acacia sentis* Benth.

taxonomic synonym: *Acacia decora* var. *pinescens* Benth.

taxonomic synonym: *Acacia decora* var. *spinescens* Benth.

taxonomic synonym: *Acacia sentis* F.Muell.

taxonomic synonym: *Acacia sentis* F.Muell.

taxonomic synonym: *Acacia sentis* F.Muell. ex Benth.

taxonomic synonym: *Acacia sentis* F.Muell.

taxonomic synonym: *Acacia sentis* F.M.Bailey

taxonomic synonym: *Acacia hanniana* Domin

taxonomic synonym: *Acacia coronalis* J.M.Black

misapplication *Acacia decora* Rchb. by Bentham, G. (1855-05), *Plantae Muellerianae: Mimoseae. Linnaea: ein Journal für die Botanik in ihrem ganzen Umfange, oder Beiträge zur Pflanzenkunde* 26(5): 620

Images



Fig. 1: '*Acacia victoriae*' by McEwin, G. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)



Fig. 2: '*Acacia victoriae*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



Fig. 3: '*Acacia victoriae*' by Fagg, M. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)

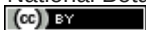


Fig. 4: '*Acacia victoriae*' by Purdie, R.W. (© Purdie, R.W.)

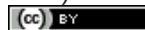




Fig. 5: '*Acacia victoriae*' by Fagg, M. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)



Fig. 6: '*Acacia victoriae*' by Clinton, B. (© Commonwealth of Australia)



Fig. 7: '*Acacia victoriae*' by Ollerenshaw (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)



Fig. 8: '*Acacia victoriae*' by Fagg, M. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)



Fig. 9: '*Acacia victoriae*' by McEwin, G. (© Director of National Parks)



Fig. 10: '*Acacia victoriae subsp. arida*' by Purdie, R.W. (© Purdie, R.W.)





Fig. 11: '*Acacia victoriae* subsp. *victoriae*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)

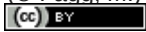


Fig. 12: '*Acacia victoriae*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)

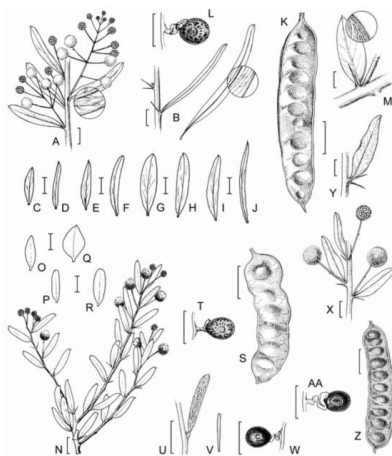


Fig. 13: '*Acacia victoriae*' by A-M, S-AA M.Pieroni. N-R B.Maslin. (© Commonwealth of Australia)



Fig. 14: '*Acacia victoriae* subsp. *victoriae*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



Fig. 15: '*Acacia victoriae*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



Fig. 16: '*Acacia victoriae*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)





Fig. 17: '*Acacia victoriae*'



Fig. 18: '*Acacia victoriae* subsp. *victoriae*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



Fig. 19: '*Acacia victoriae*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



Fig. 20: '*Acacia victoriae* subsp. *arida*' by Purdie, R.W. (© Purdie, R.W.)



Acknowledgements

Editor

P.G. Kodela

Contributor

P.G. Kodela (ed. February 2018)

