

A Field Key to Native and Naturalised Acacia Species in Tasmania

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Greening Australia, Hobart

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|----|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Plants with prominent, spiny stipules
Stipules absent or small and membranous | <i>A.paradoxa</i>
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| 2. | Leaves compound, pinnate
Leaves replaced by phyllodes | 3
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| 3. | Pinnae 2-6 pairs; leaflets 10-18 pairs, 8-12mm long,
dark green above, paler below; flowers pale cream,
mulberry scented | <i>A.terminalis</i> |
| | Pinnae 10-20 pairs; leaflets 2-4mm long, finely
pubescent; flowers golden yellow | 4 |
| 4. | Leaves silvery -grey, with single gland on rachis at or
near the bases of the pinnae; tree or shrub with silvery-
grey bark; flowering Aug-Oct; pod not constricted
between the seeds | <i>A.dealbata</i> |
| | Leaves often bronze when young, with more than one
gland on rachis at or near the bases of the pinnae; bark
dark grey-brown; flowering Dec-Jan; pod constricted
between the seeds | <i>A.mearnsii</i> |
| 5. | Phyllodes ± rigid with a sharp or pungent apex
Phyllodes leathery, apex blunt, acute or mucronate but
not sharp | 6
13 |
| 6. | Phyllodes in crowded whorls, 'spoke-like'
Phyllodes alternate or scattered | 7
8 |
| 7. | Phyllodes oblong, lanceolate or oblanceolate, thick, in
crowded whorls; flowers in dense cylindrical spikes.
Dense shrub, common in coastal areas. | <i>A.verticillata var. latifolia</i> |

- Phyllodes stout, in whorls of 5-7, spreading; flowers in compact cylindrical spikes or elongated ovoid heads. Widespread shrub or small tree *A.verticillata var. verticillata*
- Phyllodes slender, spreading or reflexed, the whorls distant; flowers in small ovoid heads. Spindly shrub of sandy heaths in the north and east *A.verticillata var. ovoidea*
8. Phyllodes less than 3 times as long as broad, rather triangular, alternate; flowers in spherical heads *A.gunnii*
- Phyllodes more than 3 times as long as broad 9
9. Phyllodes alternate, clustered or irregularly scattered, but not whorled; flowers in loose, elongated spikes, sometimes with only two or three flowers present 10
- Phyllodes alternate, may be closely arranged, but not clustered; flowers in spherical heads 11
10. Flowers scattered, in loose spikes on peduncles 2-5cm long; branchlets often drooping. Dense shrub or small tree of the east and south-east, common in southern forests. *A.riceana*
- Flowers (1-)3(-6) on short spikes, usually shorter than the phyllodes; branchlets usually more or less erect. Shrub or small tree of river banks in the central east and eastern Midlands *A.axillaris*
11. Flowers sessile or on peduncles shorter than the phyllodes; phyllodes recurved, narrowed at the base; branches cylindrical, reddish, scaly. Erect shrub of the east and north-east and Central Plateau *A.siculiformis*
- Characteristics not as above 12
12. Phyllodes without decurrent bases; branches cylindrical, brownish. Flower heads occurring singly, on peduncles as long as, or longer, than the phyllodes *A.ulicifolia*
- Phyllodes with decurrent bases, giving the smaller branchlets an angular appearance. Flower heads usually in pairs or 3-(5) together on peduncles as long as, or longer, than the phyllodes *A.genistifolia*

13. Phyllodes approximately 3 times as long as broad 14
Phyllodes much more than 3 times as long as broad 15
14. Phyllodes often yellowish-green and with conspicuous reddish margins and midrib, 2-5cm long, 0.5-2cm broad; individual flowers 3-6 in loose heads, forming axillary racemes which are longer than the phyllodes. Small shrub 0.5-2m *A.myrtifolia*
- Phyllodes grey-green, 2-5cm long, 0.5-2cm broad; flowers 12-15 in spherical heads, in axillary racemes which are longer than the phyllodes *A.pataczekii*
- Phyllodes dark green, shining, (8)-10-15cm long, 2-6cm broad. Erect shrub 0.5-2m, scattered near populated areas and, especially, the Queen's Domain, Hobart. Juvenile stage of the introduced *A.pycnantha*
15. Phyllodes with a single longitudinal vein 16
- Phyllodes with two or more longitudinal veins 17
16. Phyllodes linear - oblanceolate, straight or only slightly curved, erect or spreading; stems cylindrical in section; flowers pale yellow in dense spherical heads on short peduncles, usually 2-3-5 heads in each axil, floral bracts minute, inconspicuous *A.stricta*
- Phyllodes linear - lanceolate, straight or slightly curved; stems with an angular appearance due to the decurrent phyllode bases; flowers pale yellow, in loose axillary racemes, at first enclosed in large, conspicuous bracts *A.suaveolens*
- Phyllodes lanceolate - oblanceolate, conspicuously recurved, often pendulous on long, supple stalks, each with a conspicuous gland near the base of the phyllode; flowers golden yellow, in spherical heads, in racemes which are shorter than the phyllodes. Shrub or small tree, 2-5m, scattered near populated areas and, especially, the Queen's Domain, Hobart. Mature plant of the introduced *A.pycnantha*
17. Phyllodes sticky, appearing as if 'varnished', oblanceolate, bright pale green, bearing two conspicuous veins; flowers in small, dense spherical heads on short peduncles, usually 1-3 per axil *A.verniciflua*

- Phyllodes not sticky, usually with more than two longitudinal veins; flowers racemose or in cylindrical spikes 18
18. Flowers in cylindrical spikes 19
- Flowers in small spherical heads, in distinct racemes *A.melanoxyton*
19. Phyllodes 2-15cm long and mostly less than 1cm broad, oblong to oblanceolate; flowers creamy - pale yellow in loose, cylindrical spikes, the rachis clearly visible between the individual flowers; pod almost straight at maturity *A.mucronata*
- Phyllodes 5-20cm long and mostly more than 1cm broad, elliptical to obovate; flowers golden yellow in dense, cylindrical spikes, the rachis not visible; pod variously coiled when mature 20
20. Phyllodes 5-10cm long, 1-3.5cm broad, obovate, i.e. broadest above the middle and tapering rather abruptly to a blunt or rounded apex, texture thick, 'leathery', often yellowish-green; pod strongly coiled at maturity. Large, sprawling shrub, mostly confined to coastal dunes *A.sophorae*
- Phyllodes 8-20cm long, 1-2.5cm broad, elliptical, i.e. widest at or very near the middle and tapering gradually to a pointed apex, usually dark green, not particularly thick or 'leathery'; pod not strongly coiled at maturity. Tall shrub introduced and spreading from centres of population *A.longifolia*

Presently Accepted Name	Previous Name	Common Name*
<i>A. paradoxa</i>	<i>A. armata</i>	Kangaroo Thorn I
<i>A. terminalis</i>	<i>A. botrycephala</i>	Sunshine Wattle
<i>A. dealbata</i>		Silver Wattle C
<i>A. mearnsii</i>	<i>A. mollissima</i>	Black Wattle C
<i>A. verticillata</i> var. <i>latifolia</i>		
<i>A. verticillata</i> var. <i>verticillata</i>		Prickly Mimosa
<i>A. verticillata</i> var. <i>ovoidea</i>		
<i>A. gunnii</i>	<i>A. vomeriformis</i>	Ploughshare Wattle
<i>A. riceana</i>		Rice's Wattle E°
<i>A. axillaris</i>		E
<i>A. siculiformis</i>	<i>A. stuartiana</i>	Dagger Wattle *
<i>A. ulicifolia</i>	<i>A. juniperina</i>	Juniper Wattle *
<i>A. genistifolia</i>	<i>A. diffusa</i>	Spreading Wattle *
<i>A. myrtifolia</i>		Myrtle Wattle *
<i>A. pataczekii</i>		Wally's Wattle E°
<i>A. stricta</i>		Hop Wattle *
<i>A. suaveolens</i>		Sweet Wattle *
<i>A. pycnantha</i>		Golden Wattle I*
<i>A. verniciflua</i>		Varnished Wattle
<i>A. melanoxydon</i>		Blackwood C
<i>A. mucronata</i>		Native Willow °
<i>A. sophorae</i>		Boobyalla;
		Coast Wattle
<i>A. longifolia</i>		Sallow Wattle I*

E = endemic in Tasmania

C = commercial species

I = introduced and spreading in Tas

* = named according to J.H. Willis

° = named by present author

GLOSSARY

- Acute:** Sharply pointed, as with a leaf apex, but not necessarily 'prickly' (see pungent).
- Axil:** The upper angle between a twig and the leaf, leaf stalk or phyllode.
- Bract:** A modified leaf, usually differing from a leaf in colour and/or texture and often enclosing unopened flowers.
- Decurrent:** Of a leaf stalk, appearing to continue downward along the twig as a raised ridge.
- Glaucous:** With a greyish or whitish bloom.
- Mucronate:** With a sharply pointed tip, as at the apex of a leaf.
- Peduncle:** The stalk of a flower or the common stalk of a group of flowers.
- Phyllode:** A 'flattened' or expanded leaf stalk, appearing and functioning as a leaf.
- Pinnae:** The first division or leaflet of a pinnate compound leaf.
- Pinnule:** The second division of a twice pinnate compound leaf.
- Pubescent:** Covered with fine, downy hairs.
- Pungent:** Sharply pointed and 'prickly'.
- Raceme:** A group of flowers on a common stalk (peduncle), each flower with its own distinct stalk (pedicel).
- Rachis:** The common axis or mid stalk of a compound pinnate leaf, or a spike or raceme of flowers. The continuation of the stalk beyond the first leaflets or flowers.
- Sessile:** Not having a distinct or obvious stalk - of a leaf or flower.
- Spike:** A group of flowers on a common stalk (peduncle) and with each individual flower not having a distinct stalk (sessile!)
- Stipule:** Outgrowths immediately below the attachment of a leaf, leaf stalk or phyllode to the stem.
- Whorl:** A group of organs e.g. leaves, petals etc arranged as the spokes of a wheel, in the case of leaves or phyllodes, more than two arranged evenly around a stem.
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