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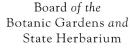
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A NEW SPECIES OF ACACIA FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

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Abstract

Acacia jasperensis J.R. Maconochie, a new species restricted to Jasper Gorge, Northern Territory, is described. Its distinguishing features from A. alleniana and A. praelongata are discussed.

Acacia jasperensis J.R. Maconochie, sp. nov.

Frutex ad 6 m altus. *Phyllodia* erecta, filiformia, puncticulata, teretia, 8.5-15 cm longa, 0.5-0.7 mm lata. *Flores* 5-meri; lobi calycis spathulati, 0.9-1 mm longi; corolla glabra, 1.2-1.5 mm longa; ovarium glabrum. *Legumen* planum, glabrum, chartaceum, 6-10 cm longum, 8-12 mm latum. *Semina* subglobosa, 4-4.5 mm diametro.

Type: J. R Maconochie 2631, 30.iii.1981, Jasper Gorge, 16° 02' S, 130° 47' E (NT, holo.; AD, BRI, CANB, CBG, DNA, K, MEL, MO, NSW, iso.).

Erect slender shrub or tree to 6 m high, with smooth grey bark. Phyllodes erect, filiform, punctulate, terete, or quadrangular when dry, 8.5-15 cm long, 0.5-0.7 mm broad, with raised circular gland surrounded by dark ring of tissue 5-6 mm from base. Inflorescence spherical 3-5 mm diameter, in groups of 3 or 4 in axils of phyllodes; flowers yellow; peduncles glabrous, 8-10 mm long. Calyx free, with lobes spathulate, sparsely hairy, 0.9-1 mm long. Corolla glabrous, with apices of lobes thickened, 1.2-1.5 mm long. Ovary glabrous. Pods flat, glabrous, slightly glaucous, papery, prominently domed above each seed and slightly contracted between them, 6-10 cm long, 8-12 mm broad. Seeds subglobular, 4-4.5 mm in diameter. Fig. 1.

Only known from the type locality, Jasper Gorge.

Specimens examined

NORTHERN TERRITORY: Jasper Gorge, A.S. George 15138, 15.vi.1978 (NT); J.R. Maconochie 2491, ix.1980 (NT).

Affinities

A. jasperensis is allied to A. alleniana Maiden and A. praelongata F. Muell. A. praelongata differs from A. jasperensis in having longer and broader phyllodes (110-250 x 1-4 mm) and a compound inflorescence. A. alleniana and A. jasperensis are very similar in general morphology and habitat; both species grow on rocky hillsides and flowering specimens are indistinguishable except for the presence of a circular gland at the base of the phyllodes of A. jasperensis. These two species are distinguished as follows:

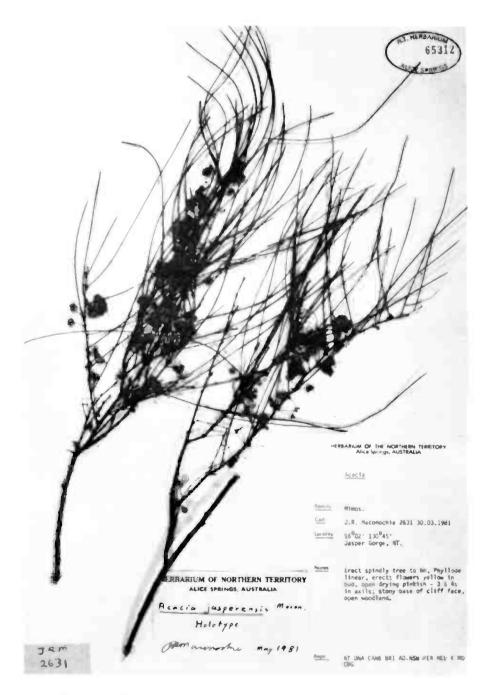


Fig. 1. Holotype of the name A. jasperensis, Maconochie 2631, (NT).