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State Herbarium of South Australia
PO Box 2732
Kent Town SA 5071
Australia



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A NEW SPECIES OF *ACACIA* FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

J. R. Maconochie

Herbarium of the Northern Territory, P.O. Box 1046,
Alice Springs, N.T. 5750

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 spatulati, 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 spatulate, 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:

Phyllodes with circular gland near base; pod flat, smooth, 60-100 x 8-12 mm, glaucous; seeds subglobular, 4-4.5 mm in diameter *A. jasperensis*
Phyllode without gland; pod flat, reticulate, 70-150 x 3.5-5 mm, not glaucous; seeds cylindrical, 2-2.5 x 4 mm *A. alleniana*



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