

# Red-eyed Wattle



Scientific name: *Acacia cyclops*

Aboriginal name: Wilyawa (Noongar)



Plant habit



Leaf



Flower



Fruit pods and seeds

## About ...

Also known as the 'Western Coastal Wattle'. This *Acacia* species is found in sandy and limestone soils along the coast from Eneabba to the Great Australian Bight where it extends into South Australia. It is a problem weed in South Africa where it has been introduced.

Its scientific name, *Acacia cyclops*, refers to the mythical one-eyed giant Greek legend-'Cyclops'. The unusual appearance of the seed is the reason behind the name.

The seeds are eaten by birds and small animals and then dispersed in their droppings. The seeds then germinate to produce a new plant.

It is used to stabilise coastal sand dunes and is also grown overseas for its dense and high quality fuelwood.

## Aboriginal Uses



- Seeds are ground into flour, then mixed with water and cooked as bread
- Green seed pods release a sticky juice (when crushed) when mixed with water makes sunscreen, insect repellent and a treatment for eczema
- Gum from the stem can be eaten
- Bardi grubs which burrow in the stems as larvae are a sought after and nutritious food

## Family

MIMOSACEAE

## Climate

Temperate

## Habitat

Coastal heathlands and dry scrublands

## Form

Dense shrub or small tree

Height: 1 – 4 m

Shorter, more spreading habit near the coast

Taller habit when growing inland

## Foliage

Leaves are not true leaves, they are flattened leaf stalks

Length: 40 – 90 mm

Thick and leathery

Alternate simply along the stem

Long and narrow

## Flower

Djilba to Bunuru (September to March)

Golden-yellow flowers

Grow in small round clusters

Arranged in pairs at the base of the leaf

## Fruit

Kambarang to Birak (late Spring, early Summer)

Long, flat pods

Length: up to 150 mm

Twist and coil around after opening

Seeds are dark brown to black and

encircled by an orange-to-red fleshy circle

Developed by SERCUL for use with the *Bush Tucker Education Program*.



Used as food



Used as medicine



Used as resources



Local to SW WA

**Caution:** Do not prepare bush tucker food without having been shown by Indigenous or experienced persons. Some bush tucker if eaten in large quantities or not prepared correctly can cause illness.

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