

5-merous; sepals free. Pods biconvex, deeply constricted between seeds, fragmenting easily at constrictions, to 10 cm long, 6–7 mm wide, crustaceous, pruinose or sometimes not, glabrous. Seeds longitudinal, elliptic to oblong-elliptic, 5.5–7 mm long, dull, black; funicle filiform, $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ encircling seed in a single fold; aril thick. Fig. 21J–P.

Occurs principally in the Avon R. drainage system from Goomalling to Brookton; an outlying population occurs near Wannamal, W.A. Grows in sand, sandy clay, clay, loamy sand, loam, rocky loam, rocky clay and lateritic gravel, often in Wandoo woodland, frequently on roadsides. Flowers sporadically throughout the year. Map 118.

W.A.: c. 9.6 km S of Wannamal Siding, *A.S.George 8636* (PERTH, TLF); 19 km from York towards Quairading, *B.R.Maslin 3819* (K, PERTH); 3 km W of Toodyay on Harper Rd, *B.R.Maslin 5322* (PERTH); 3.2 km N of Brookton on Brookton Hwy, *M.D.Tindale 127* & *B.R.Maslin* (NSW, PERTH).

Phyllodes very variable in shape and size. Atypically elongate forms (l:w = 5–8) occur on some plants, especially in the Northam–Toodyay area; because there is no marked discontinuity in phyllode dimensions the entity described by Meissner as var. *angustifolia* is not formally recognised for these plants.

One of the '*A. microbotrya* group', which may be confused with pruinose forms of the more easterly-distributed close relative, *A. leptopetala*, which has predominantly racemose inflorescences. Also closely allied to *A. merrickiae* which has a more open habit and slightly larger flower-heads which are more often in racemes. Intermediates occur among the three species.

(BRM)

107. *Acacia merrickiae* Maiden & Blakely, *J. & Proc. Roy. Soc. W. Australia* 13: 13; pl. 7, figs 1–8 (1928), as *merrickae*

T: Kellerberrin area [precise locality withheld for conservation reasons], 24 May 1922, W.A., *C.A.Gardner 1688*; holo: NSW; iso: PERTH.

Illustration: J.H.Maiden & W.F.Blakely, *loc. cit.*

Spindly, open, glabrous, commonly single-stemmed shrub 2–4 m high. Branchlets pruinose, roughened by raised scars of fallen phyllodes. Phyllodes elliptic to ovate, often shallowly concave and reflexed, 1.5–3.5 cm long, 7–15 mm wide, l:w = 1.5–3, acute to subacute, mucronulate, coriaceous, pruinose, glaucous, with slightly raised midrib, subobscurely finely penninerved. Inflorescences axillary and/or terminal racemes, often interspersed with some simple, axillary peduncles; raceme axes 10–40 mm long; peduncles 6–13 (–25) mm long, often pruinose; heads globular to slightly obloid, 5–6 mm diam., 45–65-flowered, light golden. Flowers 5-merous; sepals free. Pods linear, rounded over and ±constricted between seeds, to 6 cm long, 5–6 mm wide, thinly coriaceous, pruinose. Seeds longitudinal, oblong to slightly elliptic, 4 mm long, dull, dark brown; funicle c. $\frac{1}{2}$ encircling seed; aril clavate. Fig. 21G–I.

Known only from near Kellerberrin and Mukinbudin, W.A. Gazetted a rare species in W.A. Grows in sandy loam and clay in open woodland. Map 119.

W.A.: NE of Bungalla, 15 Jan. 1967, *A.R.Main s.n.* (PERTH); Mukinbudin area [precise locality withheld for conservation reasons], *P.Roberts 16* (PERTH).

A member of the '*A. microbotrya* group', similar to the pruinose form of *A. leptopetala* which can be distinguished by its growth habit (dense and multistemmed), smaller flower-heads and by the phyllodes never being shallowly concave, reflexed or broadest below their middle; intermediates occur between the two taxa and also presumed hybrids. Also closely allied to *A. meisneri*.

(BRM)

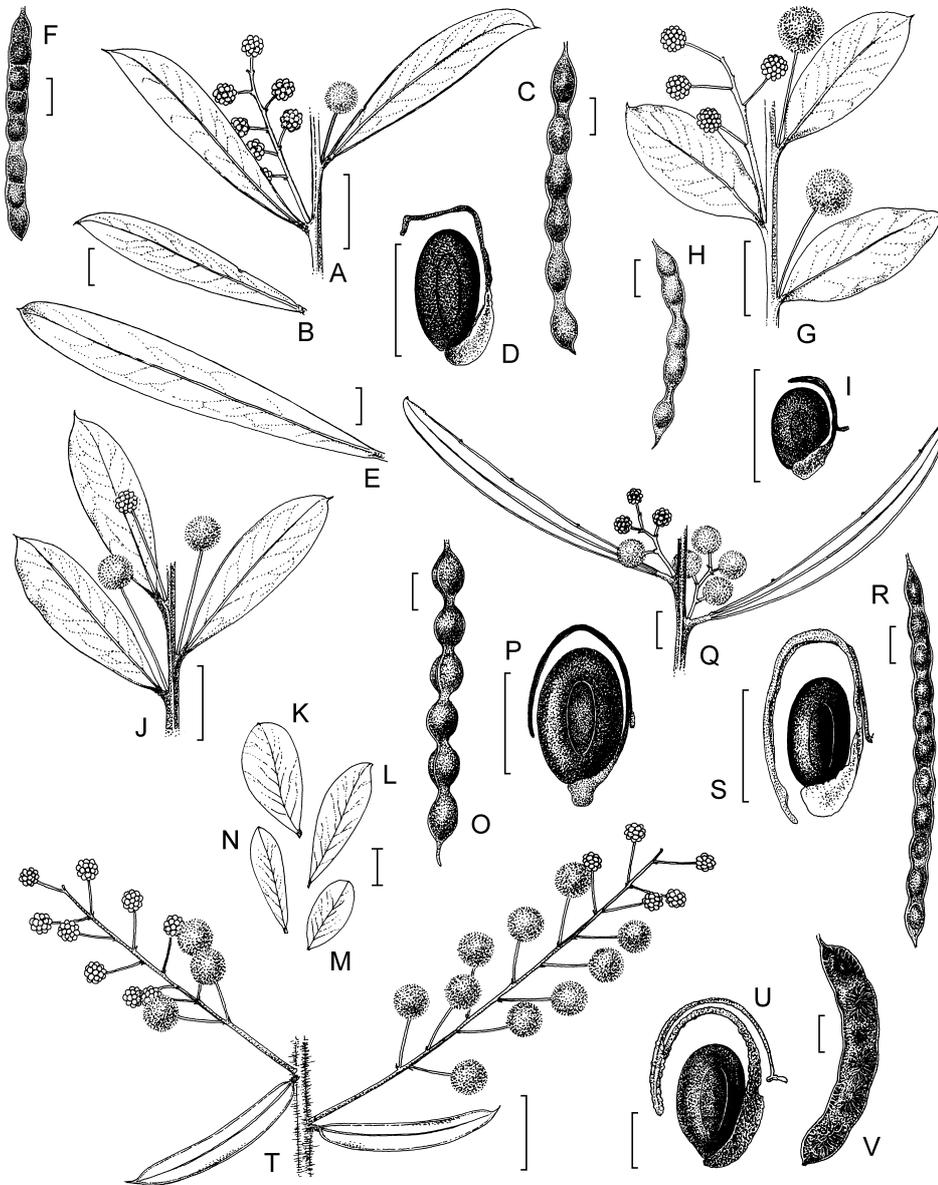


Figure 21. A–D. *A. leptopetala*. A, flowering branchlet; B, phyllode; C, pod; D, seed (A, C–D, B.Maslin 4377, PERTH; B, B.Maslin 2317, PERTH). E–F. *A. leptopetala* (Hopetoun variant). E, phyllode; F, pod (E–F, M.Beattie 3 Nov. 1976, PERTH). G–I. *A. merrickiae*. G, flowering branchlet; H, pod; I, seed (G, C.Gardner 14291, PERTH; H–I, B.Maslin 4155, PERTH). J–P. *A. meisneri*. J, flowering branchlet; K–N, phyllode variation; O, pod; P, seed (J, B.Maslin 3819, PERTH; K, B.Maslin 5320, PERTH; L, O–P, B.Maslin 5322, PERTH; M, B.Maslin 4091, PERTH; N, B.Maslin 3820, PERTH). Q–S. *A. gladiiformis*. Q, flowering branchlet; R, pod; S, seed (Q, B.Maslin 5910, PERTH; R–S, R.Coveny 12097 & P.Hind, PERTH). T–V. *A. leichhardtii*. T, flowering branchlet; U, pod; V, seed (T, M.Ballingall 2140, PERTH; U–V, M.Ballingall 2108, PERTH). Scale bars: A, C, F–H, J–O, Q, R, T, U = 10 mm; B, D, E, I, P, S, U, V = 5 mm. A–J, O–V drawn by M.Pieroni. K–N drawn by B.Maslin.