

Acacia ? craspedocarpa x ramulosa

This putative hybrid is noted by Maslin & Reid (2012: 205) and is shown in Figure 33At (page 204) in that work.

Salient features. Branchlet ribs not prominent, absent with age. New shoots resinous and dark-coloured, covered by a dense layer of glandular hairlets. Phyllodes narrowly elliptic, 4–7 cm long, normally 3–5 mm wide, normally straight to shallowly incurved, nerves numerous and parallel, rarely a few anastomoses on some phyllodes; discrete resinous marginal nerve absent or very poorly developed. Pods oblong to narrowly oblong, (2–) 3–8 cm long, 7–12 (–15) mm wide, coriaceous, flat to compressed, brown or red-brown, obscurely narrowly winged or ±rimmed, longitudinally anastomosing nerves evident with a dense indumentum of silvery white appressed hairs inbetween (hairs often embedded in resin and difficult to see). Seeds large (5.5–7 (–8.5) x 4–5 mm).

Distribution. A seemingly uncommon entity. Most specimens are from the Cue – Paynes Find – Sandstone area, but one is from “Leonora – Meekatharra”. *Acacia ? craspedocarpa x ramulosa* has been recorded as sympatric with both putative parents in one population, namely, 69 km S of Mt Magnet – Leinster road on the Sandstone – Paynes Find road (*A. craspedocarpa* – B.R. Maslin & J.E. Reid BRM 9731; *A. ? craspedocarpa x ramulosa* – B.R. Maslin & J.E. Reid BRM 9734; *A. ramulosa* not collected) and with only *A. ramulosa* in another population in the same general region, namely, Paynes Find – Sandstone road, c. 5 km E of Great Northern Highway (*A. ramulosa* var. *ramulosa* – B.R. Maslin 9903 and *A. ? craspedocarpa x ramulosa* – B.R. Maslin 9902).

Other representative specimens. 49 km due E of Paynes Find on Sandstone/Paynes Find road, just before Warne River crossing, R. Fairman 347 (PERTH); 10 km ESE of Mount Magnet, Boogardie Station ‘Mullitor paddock’, B.R. Maslin, J. Miller, L. Sweedman & B. Cole BRM 7897 (PERTH)..

Taxonomy. The pods have the general facies of *A. ramulosa* except that they are obviously flattened and often narrowly winged, and the phyllodes narrowly elliptic. The relationship to *A. craspedocarpa* is very speculative and is based on the observation that the phyllodes occasionally possess a few anastomosing nerves (anastomoses numerous in *A. craspedocarpa*). It is quite possible that there are discordant elements included within the circumscription of this putative hybrid (e.g. field observations suggest that in some cases perhaps *A. aptaneura* is the second parent, e.g. B.R. Maslin 8978 (collected from c. 96 km E of Sandstone).

(B.R. Maslin)