

Plant of the Month - September

by Allan Carr

Acacia hubbardiana

Hubbard's Wattle

Pronunciation: a-KAY-sha hub-ard-ee-ARN-a

MIMOSACEAE

Derivation: *Acacia*, from the Greek, *akis* – a sharp point, referring to the prickly nature of the first species discovered; *hubbardiana*, named in 1969 in honour of Charles Edward Hubbard, a British botanist who travelled extensively in Queensland collecting specimens for the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. (His main botanical specialty was in grass species.) This species had previously been incorrectly known as *A. plagiophylla* for many years.



Habit



Buds, flowers



Developing Fruits



Mature Fruits

The genus *Acacia* is the largest genus of flowering plants in Australia with around 955 species that occur throughout the continent in every type of terrestrial habitat.

Description: *Acacia hubbardiana* is a small open shrub to 2 m high with reddish, slightly hairy branches clothed in bright green foliage which occurs on the coastal fringe of south-eastern Qld from Bundaberg to near Brisbane. On coastal lowlands it often grows in poorly drained sand in open forest or heath associated with swamps; it also occurs on rocky slopes above about 150 m altitude on peaks of the Glass House Mountains.

***Phyllodes** are alternate, to 9 mm, almost triangular and drawn out to a sharp point. They have one nerve and thickened margins.

Flowers are in creamy yellow, fluffy 8 mm balls on *peduncles to about 15 mm long and have a faint, sweet perfume. In the centre photo above you can see from the buds that each flower head is made of up to twenty individual flowers. Flowering usually happens from July to October.



Phyllodes, flowers

Fruits are flattened pods to 50 mm x 20 mm, dark brown when mature from October to December. These are raised over the seeds alternately on each side as can be seen in the photos on the right above. Seeds are small and black.

*phyllode = modified, flattened leaf stalk, looking and acting like a leaf

*peduncle = stalk of a flower cluster