

Plant of the Month - March

by Allan Carr

Acacia complanata

flat-stemmed wattle

Pronunciation: a-KAY-sha com-plan-AR-ta

MIMOSACEAE

Derivation: *Acacia*, from the Greek, *akakia* – to sharpen, (a reference to the prickly nature of the first species discovered); *complanata*, from the Latin, *complanare* – to make level or even (a reference to the flat stems).



Flat winged stems, phyllodes, buds and inflorescences

Acacia, the largest Australian plant genus has about 955 species throughout the continent. For information about the term ‘wattle’ see Plant of the Month, August 2013 or June 2014.

Description: *A. complanata* is a shrub to 4 m with smooth grey bark and drooping branches occurring in coastal and near coastal shallow sandy and stony soils from Blackdown Tableland and Bundaberg in Qld to Grafton in NSW. New branchlets are conspicuously flattened and winged.

Phyllodes are thick, alternate, bright green and oval-shaped to 110 mm x 45 mm. These have noticeable longitudinal veins, a rounded tip and a prominent gland on the top edge.

Inflorescences are bright yellow balls to 10 mm diameter on stalks to 12 mm, each having up to 45 individual flowers. Flowering can occur from November to May.

Fruits are dark brown flat pods to 150 mm x 10 mm, rounded and raised alternately over seeds and slightly constricted between seeds. The seeds to 5 mm x 3 mm are dark brown and oval-shaped.



Phyllodes



Seed pods



Habit