

Acacia dealbata Link, SILVER WATTLE. Small tree, evergreen, with several trunks (vigorously resprouting when damaged), unarmed, in range to 12 m tall; shoots with feathery, somewhat silvery foliage, canescent and glaucous on young axes to sparsely short-strigose on leaflet blades having hairs pointing toward tip. **Stems:** ridged, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, slightly zigzagged, internodes typically 25–85(–120) mm long, canescent and gray-glaucous; young branches green and still somewhat glaucous, with fine, darker stripes (= low ridges), aging sparsely short-hairy; bark tight, dull gray with light-gray blotches, inner bark cinnamon brown. **Leaves:** helically alternate, even-2-pinnately compound with 9–24 pairs of primary leaflets (pinnae), petiolate with pulvinus, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to base of petiole on swellings, broadly triangular to acuminate-ovate, 0.6–0.8 mm long, sparsely short-hairy and short-ciliate mostly below midpoint, early-deciduous on expanding young leaf; petiole 4–20 mm long, pulvinus at base \pm conspicuous and to 4 mm long, with a doughnut-shaped nectary (gland) just below blade; blade \pm rectangular-oblong in outline, (25–)80–175 \times to 75 mm; rachis strongly ridged, canescent and glaucous, lacking stipules of primary leaflet but with 1 extrafloral nectary at junction of each pair of primary leaflets, the gland chimneylike or doughnut-shaped, yellowish white to light yellowish green, short-hairy; primary leaflets attached to upper side of rachis, diverging from rachis at ca. 45°, (5–)15–59 mm long, most primary leaflets per blade \pm same length, with 10–54 pairs of secondary leaflets (pinnules) along rachilla; rachilla somewhat flat-sided; petiolules of secondary leaflets ascending, flat, 0.2–0.3 mm long, wrinkled like pulvinus; blades of secondary leaflets overlapping, narrowly oblong to elliptic, 2–4(–5) \times 0.6–0.7 mm, oblique at base, entire, round to obtuse at tip, obscurely pinnately veined with midrib eccentric to upper margin, blue-green, short-strigose mostly above midblade. **Inflorescence:** headlike spikes, in axillary paniclelike arrays (sometimes appearing terminal) having (1–)2–10 racemelike branches, 40–90+ mm long, open, each branch with 5–20 heads, heads spheric, \pm 6–8 mm across (= styles exerted), bright yellow, flowers helically alternate and densely packed, ca. 30-flowered, bracteate, short-hairy; axes \pm zigzagged between peduncles of heads, moderately to densely canescent; bract subtending peduncle scalelike, ovate, < 1 mm long, acute at tip, canescent, not early-deciduous; peduncle spreading to ascending, cylindric, 3.5–6 mm long, sparsely short-pubescent; bractlet subtending sessile flower clawed, \pm 1 mm long, short-lived (fugacious), the claw narrow and typically pubescent, the upper portion \pm kidney-shaped to umbrellalike, pale green becoming orange or reddish, wavy or angled and short-ciliate on margins. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 1.5 mm across (= ascending stamens), strongly fragrant somewhat like alfalfa (*Medicago*); **nectary** absent; **calyx** 5-lobed, \pm 0.8 mm long and wide, pale yellow; tube urn-shaped or vase-shaped; lobes rounded, \pm 0.2 \times 0.4 mm, pubescent; **petals** 5, oblanceolate, 1.3–1.5 mm long, bright yellow; **stamens** 25–30, free, exerted; filaments 3–4 mm long, yellow; anthers dithecal, \pm 0.2 mm, producing yellow pollinia (permanently united pollen); **pistil** 1, to 5 mm long; ovary superior, oblanceoloid to \pm fusiform, ca. 0.7 mm long, light green, 1-chambered with several ovules attached to upper side; style exerted 1–2 mm beyond anthers, somewhat off-centered, light yellow; stigma terminal. **Fruit:** legume (pod), dehiscent by 2 valves, several-seeded, oblong and straight or somewhat curved, typically 50–80 \times ca. 6(–14) mm, flat, dark brown (immature blue or purplish or blue-green to gray-green), glaucous. **Seed:** compressed-ovoid, 4–5 \times 1.5–2.5 mm, black, with depressed oval center on each side,

hard; plug over hilum caplike, brown to white; brown funiculus looped around seed before dispersal from fruit. Mid-January–mid-March.

Naturalized. Small tree growing in a well-established, reproducing grove in southern oak woodland along the backbone trail near Malibu Creek State Park (SMM), where it has repeatedly resisted eradication, but also escaped from cultivation in the Hollywood Hills. *Acacia dealbata* has dense short hairs on young axes, making stems grayish. The twice-pinnately compound leaves typically have about twenty pairs of primary leaflets of more or less equal length, each with dozens of slender secondary leaflets, which are grayish because they are both glaucous and sparsely short-strigose. At the junction of each pair of primary leaflets there is an extrafloral nectary on the rachis. The sessile, bright yellow flowers of *A. dealbata* are produced in spheric, headlike spikes on open panicles, with the stigma extending at least one millimeter above the neighboring anthers, and a sweet fragrance attracts insects to collect the large pollinia.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson