

Acacia longifolia (Andrews) Willd., SYDNEY GOLDEN WATTLE, BUSH ACACIA, BROAD-LEAF ACACIA, SALLOW WATTLE. Shrub or small tree, evergreen, unarmed, highly branched with dense canopy, 300–600 cm tall; shoots with leathery leaves, phyllodaceous (adult leaf = a specialized, flattened petiole with vertical rather than horizontal orientation); bark tight, dull gray. **Stems:** angled and ridged, with 1 ridge descending from each leaf, green or orange with ridges typically red, sparsely short-strigose or becoming glabrate. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple (= a phyllode) with pulvinus on a short-projecting leaf base, with stipules; stipules 2, attached at node next to pulvinus, acute, 1 mm long, green or reddish, stiff, ciliate on margins, early-deciduous; pulvinus cylindric, 1.5–5 mm long, tinged reddish, wrinkled; phyllode (\approx blade) narrowly elliptic to oblanceolate, in range 40–135 \times 5–29 mm, straight and not curved to sickle-shaped, broadly tapered at base, entire with a gland ca. 4–5 mm from pulvinus on upper margin, acute to obtuse at tip with a minute, reddish point turned somewhat to 1 side, appearing parallel-veined with 2 or 3(5) longitudinal veins from base somewhat more prominent, sparsely short-strigose becoming glabrescent. **Inflorescence:** spike, axillary, 1–2 per axil, cylindric, 12–40 \times ca. 5 mm, flowers helically alternate, many-flowered, flowers \perp rachis, bracteate, glabrous; bract subtending peduncle partially sheathing, scalelike and deltate, 2–3 mm, reddish, early-deciduous; peduncle cylindric, 1–2.5 mm long, green, glabrous; rachis ridged, 1 mm diameter, green, persistent even without developing fruits; bractlet subtending flower cupped and paddle-shaped, \pm 0.6 mm long, orange aging red, white-hirsute, deciduous after anthesis. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 2.5–3 mm across; **nectary** absent; **calyx** 4-lobed, cuplike, 0.5–0.7 mm long, light green; lobes appressed to corolla, wide and very short, short-ciliate on margins; **corolla** 4-lobed, greenish yellow; tube bell-shaped, $<$ calyx and hidden by calyx; lobes spreading, ovate, 1–1.4 mm long; with margins somewhat inrolled to upper side; **stamens** many, barely fused at bases, exserted; filaments slender, 1.7–2 mm long, greenish yellow, never straight; anthers dithecal, 0.15 mm long, producing yellow pollinia (permanently united pollen); **pistil** 1, \pm 2.5 mm long, exserted slightly above anthers; ovary superior, straight \pm fusiform, 0.7–0.8 mm long, soft-hairy, 1-chambered with several–many ovules attached to upper side; style green, glabrous; stigma capitate. **Fruit:** legume (pod), dehiscent by 2 valves base to tip, 2–16-seeded, curved crescent-shaped linear, 40–155 \times 4.5–5 mm, dull brown, wrinkled lengthwise, glabrous, bulging for each fertile seed, the seed pockets \pm 10 mm apart, with beaklike tip 7–12 mm long. **Seed:** dispersed with fleshy aril (funiculus) covering basal 1/3; narrowly ovoid slightly compressed top-to-bottom, 4.8–5.4 \times 2.5–2.7 mm, glossy black with a dark brown, finely scored ellipse on each compressed face, oblique at base, rounded at tip; aril sheathlike, unequally 2-lipped and somewhat folded, 1.5–3.5 mm long, cartilaginous and pale tan, convoluted portion with longer lip adhering tightly to hilum, portion with the shorter lip hinged from lower funiculus. Late January–early May.

Naturalized. A small evergreen tree cultivated in range and occasionally escaped in riparian woodland, e.g., in Santa Ynez Canyon and Griffith Park, or as individual specimens along roads in the mountains. *Acacia longifolia* is a phyllode-producing wattle from Australia. The base of the phyllode (flattened petiole) is a pulvinus; along the upper margin about five millimeters above the pulvinus is a gland, and venation is more or less parallel with at least two veins more prominent than the others. This species is

distinguished by having elongate spikes of sessile flowers, versus many other acacias that have flowers in spheric heads. Fruit maturity and seed set in *A. longifolia* are high, providing a large seed pool for potential colonizing, although this has not yet become an invasive species. The seed is glossy black with a dark brown ellipse scored on each face, and it separates from the fruit valve having a fleshy, cartilaginous aril (funiculus) attached.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson