

Acacia melanoxylon R. Brown, BLACKWOOD ACACIA. Tree, evergreen, unarmed, with dense canopy and highly branched, in range parent tree to 25 m tall; shoots on mature plant typically phyllodaceous (adult leaf = a specialized, flattened petiole with vertical rather than horizontal orientation), on resprouts and seedlings with phyllodes and 2-pinnately compound juvenile leaves, gray-canescens to densely short-tomentose (new shoots); bark fibrous and deeply fissured, dull gray and brown, inner bark red-brown. **Stems:** angled, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, green, tough, somewhat zigzagged, pubescent, young woody stems cylindrical with tough bark. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple (phyllodes) and 2-even-pinnately compound with 2–7 opposite pairs of primary leaflets (pinnae), with pulvinus, with stipules; stipules 2, attached at node, appressed, acuminate narrowly triangular, to 1.5 mm long, green, sparsely short-hairy, persistent. Of compound leaves, petiole with pulvinus, 30–40(–52) mm long, pulvinus at base 1.5–3 mm long, somewhat wrinkled but inconspicuous beneath short pubescence; axis often ridged and flattened side-to-side, in many leaves eccentric to upper side and transitional to phyllodes with flat surfaces having several parallel veins, with a small gland on upper side several mm above pulvinus; phyllode (\approx blade) \pm rectangular-oblong in outline, 80–120 \times 80–100 mm; rachis strongly ridged or flattened side-to-side, 45–115 mm long, with pairs of primary leaflets at least 10 mm apart, canescens, stipel absent and lacking an extrafloral nectary (gland) at junction of each pair of primary leaflets; primary leaflets attached to upper side of rachis diverging at ca. 60°, 30–75 mm long, most primary leaflets per leaf \pm same length, with 20–52 pairs of secondary leaflets (pinnules) along rachilla; rachilla to 70 mm long, ridged with 1 medial ridge on upper side; petiolules of secondary leaflets ascending, flat, 0.8–1.2 mm long, wrinkled like pulvinus; blades of secondary leaflets spreading widely, oblong to elliptic, 2.5–8 \times 2–2.5 mm, oblique at base, entire, round to obtuse at tip, obscurely pinnately veined with midrib eccentric to upper margin, somewhat blue-green, glabrate. Of phyllodes, pulvinus cylindrical, 2–3 mm long, wrinkled, glabrate or sparsely short-hairy; phyllode (\approx blade) lanceolate or broadly oblanceolate, in range 95–140 \times 10–33 mm, dull, straight and typically neither strongly curved nor typically sickle-shaped, long-tapered at base, entire with a gland 2–4 mm from pulvinus on upper margin, acute to acuminate at tip, typically with (2–)3–5 longitudinal veins base-to-tip, midrib not defined and halves slightly unequal, at maturity glabrescent or with scattered short hairs, not glaucous. **Inflorescence:** headlike spikes, in axillary, racemelike arrays in range with 1–4 heads diverging on peduncles, array to 25 mm long and $<$ phyllode, head spheric, fully open \pm 10 mm across, flowers helically alternate and dense, \pm 50-flowered, appearing pale yellow, bracteate, axes often encrusted with waxy exudates, stalk from axil to 4.5 mm long; bract subtending peduncle appressed, scalelike, cupped-deltate, \pm 1 mm, early-deciduous often leaving no obvious scar; peduncle 6.5–9 mm long, stiff; bractlet subtending sessile flower 0.8–1.2 mm long, not visible on surface of head in bud, with white, flattened, clawlike axis and a flattened, thickened tip having wax exudate and minute red hairs. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, \pm 1.5 mm across; **nectary** absent; **calyx** 5-lobed, 1–1.5 mm long, $>$ bractlet, white; tube funnel-shaped; lobes broad and truncate to rounded, to 0.25 mm long, thickened, encrusted with wax and having minute red hairs, calyces together forming a reddish barrier between flower buds; **petals** 5, erect, narrowly oblanceolate, 1.7–2.1 mm long, whitish, thickish, in bud pale yellowish green and arched over stamens; **stamens** many, free, exerted; filaments threadlike, 3–4 mm long, whitish;

anthers dithecal, 0.2 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; producing light yellow pollinia (permanently united pollen); **pistil** 1; ovary superior, obovoid to ellipsoid, ca. 0.9 mm long, pale green, densely strigose, 1-chambered with several–12 ovules attached to upper side; style exerted and straight, 4.6–5.2 mm long, white; stigma terminal, minute. **Fruit:** legume (pod), dehiscent by 2 valves, to 12-seeded, \pm tubular before dehiscing, 60–150 \times 6–8 mm, with persistent valves curved and irregularly twisted or partially coiled, the valves not cracked or flaking, dull brown on both surfaces, glabrate, slightly bulging at seeds but not narrowed between seeds. **Seed:** compressed-ellipsoid, ca. 4 \times 2.8 mm, black, hard; funiculus encircling seed with extra loops in irregular folds, to 30 mm long and allowing seed to dangle from open fruit, salmon and remaining colored in dry condition. Early March–late April.

Waif. Evergreen tree cultivated in the Los Angeles region, and in Franklin Canyon forming a small escaped population near the original planting via resprouts, sprouting from roots but also new seedlings. *Acacia melanoxylon* has relatively broad phyllodes, usually with four longitudinal veins, but resprouts and seedlings have twice-pinnately compound leaves, most of which show the transition stages from a petiole to becoming a phyllode. This is the only escaped wattle in range that has pale yellow, spheric heads, in which only the anthers are yellow.

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