

Acacia retinodes Schldl., EVERBLOOMING ACACIA, EVERBLOOMING WATTLE, SWAMP WATTLE. Small tree to large shrub, evergreen, unarmed, highly branched, in range 3–8 m tall; shoots typically phyllodaceous (adult leaf = a specialized, flattened petiole with vertical rather than horizontal orientation), glabrate. **Stems:** ridged and initially 2-angled, with each angle descending from a phyllode for 2 internodes, young branchlet initially fusiform in \times -section aging cylindrical, tough, green, glaucous, young bark greenish. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple (= phyllode) with pulvinus, with stipules; stipules 2, attached at node, appressed and curved over axillary bud, triangular awl-shaped, 0.5–1 mm long, initially yellow-green turning pinkish, short-ciliate on margins, early-deciduous; pulvinus (of petiole) stout-cylindric, $1.2\text{--}3(-3.5) \times 1.3\text{--}1.7$ mm, green sometimes aging reddish, transversely wrinkled; phyllode (\approx blade) linear-lanceolate to oblanceolate-linear, (30–)60–195 \times 3–12(-15) mm, dull, straight to slightly arched but not sickle-shaped, long-tapered at base, entire with a gland 5–10 mm from pulvinus on upper margin, acuminate at tip with a green, hooklike point 0.5–0.7 mm long, inconspicuously pinnately veined with 1 off-center longitudinal midrib and unequal halves (hooked tip pointing to the shorter side), \pm flat or midrib slightly raised but more so on 1 surface, sparsely short-strigose immediately becoming glabrescent, slightly glaucous. **Inflorescence:** headlike spikes, in axillary, racemelike and paniclelike arrays, array to 80 mm long and $<$ phyllode, with 3–30+ heads, head spheric, 4.5–6 mm across, light yellow, flowers helically alternate and dense, 35–50-flowered, each head having all flowers open at same time, heads not opening in sequence base to tip, bracteate, essentially glabrous; lateral branches (of a paniclelike array) below midpoint, to 25 mm long; principal axis \pm straight to somewhat zigzagged, the lower portion 4–22 mm long, compressed top-to-bottom, strongly 2-angled with angle descending from each branchlet and peduncle; bract subtending peduncle appressed, scalelike ovate, 0.5–1 mm long, aging whitish with reddish tip or teeth (sometimes 3-toothed), short-ciliate on margins, early-deciduous, with brownish hairs in axil; peduncle spreading or \perp branchlet axis, cylindrical, ($<$ 1–)4–6 mm long, pale green, bulbous at tip, glabrous; bractlet subtending flower 1–1.4 mm long, with clawlike axis 0.9–1.2 mm long, flat and colorless, \pm deltate to ovate tip exposed on surface of bud, cupped, reddish with fringed margins. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 1.3 mm across; **nectary** absent; **calyx** 5-lobed; tube funnel-shaped, 0.5–1 mm long, membranous; lobes \pm deltate to rounded, 0.3–0.4 mm, unequal in width, yellowish, short-fringed and papillate-hairy on margin; **petals** 5, erect, equal, oblanceolate-oblong, 1.3–1.6 mm long, mostly colorless with yellow approaching tip, somewhat cupped above midpoint, acute to broadly acute at tip; in bud arched over stamens; **stamens** ca. 50, free, exerted ca. 1 mm; filaments threadlike, 1.6–2.3 mm long, light yellow, crooked; anthers dithecal, \pm 0.15 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; producing light yellow pollinia (permanently united pollen); **pistil** 1; ovary superior, \pm fusiform to oblong, 0.3–0.6 mm long, pale green to green, 1-chambered with several–12 ovules attached to upper side; style 1.7–2 mm long, exerted $<$ 0.5 mm above anthers, ascending and \pm straight to crooked, light yellow; stigma terminal, minute. **Fruit:** legume (pod), dehiscent by 2 valves, to 12-seeded, straight and oblong or oblanceolate-linear, in range 45–80 \times 5–6 mm, flattened, often glaucous, valves straight and not narrowed between seeds, the valve wall cracked but not separating its dark brown outer layer, inner valve lighter brown. **Seed:** compressed-ovoid, 4–5 \times 1.5–2.9 mm,

black, with depressed oval center on each side, hard; plug over hilum caplike, brown to white; brown funiculus looped at least halfway around seed (within fruit). Early August–late September (February–March).

Waif. Small tree barely escaped from cultivation in Franklin Canyon and Rustic Canyon (SMM). *Acacia retinodes* has relatively narrow phyllodes with only one principal vein, an off-center longitudinal midrib, so that the phyllode halves are noticeably unequal although overall the phyllode is symmetric. When vegetative, this species can be distinguished on characteristics of stipules, pulvinus, position of gland on phyllode margin, and ridges on stems. Everblooming wattle has small, light yellow flower heads colored mainly by stamens.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson