

Acacia saligna (Labill.) H. L. Wendl., GOLDEN WREATH WATTLE, BLUE-LEAF WATTLE.

Small tree, evergreen, unarmed, highly branched, in range to 6.5 m tall; shoots typically phyllodaceous (adult leaf = a specialized, flattened petiole with vertical rather than horizontal orientation), bluish green, appearing glabrous, glaucous, with purplish red extrafloral nectary in very young axils. **Stems:** initially 2-ridged aging cylindrical, tough, striped-green, glaucous. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple (= phyllode) with pulvinus, with stipules; stipules 2, attached at node next to pulvinus, erect, awl-shaped, 3 mm long, with membranous margins, extremely early-deciduous; pulvinus stout columnar, $3-4 \times \pm 2.2$ mm long, wrinkled; phyllode (\approx blade) narrowly elliptic to narrowly lanceolate or narrowly oblanceolate, in range $80-310 \times 9-21$ mm, the widest at or approaching midpoint, dull, flat and straight or some mildly twisted to 180° , neither curved nor sickle-shaped, long-tapered at base, entire with a gland within 3 mm of pulvinus on upper margin, long-tapered and with yellowish body at tip, pinnately veined with only 1 principal longitudinal vein, having a midrib from base to tip raised on both surfaces, halves unequal, sparsely short-strigose soon becoming glabrescent, evidently glaucous. **Inflorescence:** headlike spikes, in axillary, racemelike arrays having 7–12 heads, heads strictly alternate, each head spheric, fully open 14–16 mm across, bright yellow, 60–80-flowered, bracteate, nearly glabrous; axis zigzagged, lower axis to 8 mm long, approaching each peduncle with an angle descending from each bract; bract subtending peduncle cupped-deltate, 2.2–2.6 mm, greenish to yellowish and reddish soon becoming scarious, short-fringed on margins, ribbed on outer surface, early-deciduous before anthesis leaving behind a raised base on axis with short hairs in its axil, next to axil often with an miniature, immature phyllodial leaf having 2 membranous stipules and pubescent above midpoint; peduncle cylindrical, to 5 mm long; bractlet subtending sessile flower, only in small bud folded over flower, oblanceolate to spoon-shaped, ± 1.5 mm long, with flat, yellow-membranous axis and a roundish reddish, short-fringed tip about 0.6 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ± 4 mm across, ca. 6.5 mm long; **nectary** absent; **calyx** 5-lobed, whitish; tube V-shaped, ± 2 mm long, with ribs to lobes; lobes cupped and broadly ovate, ± 0.7 mm long, pale yellow, obtuse to truncate and minutely fringed at tip; **corolla** 5-lobed; tube narrowly funnel-shaped, ± 2 mm long, colorless below midpoint and yellowish approaching lobes; lobes triangular, 0.8–1 mm long, yellow, in bud arched over stamens; **stamens** 70+, free, long-exserted; filaments ca. 5.5 mm long, lower 2 mm portions adherent into tubelike segment, whitish, ascending portion of filaments \pm straight to crooked, yellow; anthers dithecal, 0.15 mm long, bright yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; producing yellow pollinia (permanently united pollen); **pistil** 1, ca. 6 mm long; ovary superior, fusiform to oblong-oblanceoloid, ± 1.2 mm long, light green, glabrous, 1-chamber with several–12 ovules attached to upper side; style exserted ascending and \pm straight to crooked, arising off-center, yellow; stigma terminal, minute. **Fruit:** legume (pod), dehiscent by 2 valves, several–11-seeded, before dehiscing \pm tubular, $40-110 \times 5-6$ mm, with persistent valves becoming curved and irregularly and mildly twisted, the valves flexible and mottled brown + glaucous, inner valve brown, not bulging at seeds, narrowed between seeds; stalk < 1.5 mm long. **Seed:** dispersed with fleshy aril (funiculus), oval compressed side-to-side, $4-5.2 \times 2.5-3$ mm, central oval on 2 faces (defined by a fine rim) brown, surrounded by lighter ring and then glossy dark brown on rest of seed, hard, with terminal hilum; funiculus $\pm 2/3$ length of

seed pointing backward, fleshy, whitish, and swollen at hilum drying cartilaginous and yellowish tan, persistent. Early March–late April.

Naturalized. Small tree occasionally cultivated in the Los Angeles region, persisting and to date found producing seedlings at several localities, in Rustic Canyon, along Mulholland Highway in Calabasas, and along upper Latigo Canyon Road (SMM). *Acacia saligna* has very long, narrow, bluish green (glaucous) phyllodes, which on many branches are slightly twisted but not more than 180 degrees along entire length. Each phyllode has only one prominent vein, a slightly raised midrib that unequally divides the phyllode, and the gland on the margin is located a few millimeters above the pulvinus. Its golden yellow flowers are in spheric heads that are produced strictly alternate along a zigzagged main axis. Fruits have narrow valves that are narrower between seeds, and the seed has three shades of brown and a persistent, fleshy, swollen funiculus that serves as an aril.

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