

### **Acacia aptaneura (short/broad phyllode variant)**

This entity is noted by Maslin & Reid (2012: 179) under *A. aptaneura*, vouchered by *B.R. Maslin & J.E. Reid* BRM 9730.

*Salient features.* Multi-stemmed shrubs or trees 3–6 m tall. Branchlet resin-ribs absent or vestigial, resin (when present) translucent. Phyllodes narrowly elliptic or sometimes +/- linear, mostly 25–60 mm long and 2–4 mm wide with l: w = 7–25, shallowly incurved, normally green, sometimes sub-glaucous. Pods orange to light brown, obscurely nerved to nerveless, glabrous, margins rimmed or sometimes bevel-edged on one margin.

*Distribution.* These plants are most common in the general vicinity of Sandstone, but it also occurs NW of Meekatharra and E of Wiluna. See also below under Notes regarding Pilbara plants.

*Representative specimens.* W.A.: 19.5 km E of Wiluna on road to Gunbarrel Highway, *B.R. Maslin* 9032 (PERTH); 92 km NW of Meekatharra on road to Gascoyne Junction, *B.R. Maslin* 9071 (PERTH); 69 km S of Mt Magnet – Leinster Road on Sandstone – Paynes Find Road, *B.R. Maslin* 9923 (PERTH).

*Notes.* These plants have the general facies of *A. aptaneura*, differing most obviously in their relatively short & broad phyllodes that are commonly narrowly elliptic (phyllodes linear in *A. aptaneura*). Phyllodes superficially very similar to some morphotypes of *A. aneura* but the rimmed pods distinguish it from that species. The taxonomic status of these short/broad variants is uncertain; they may possibly represent hybrids involving either *A. aptaneura* or *A. macraneura*, but the second parent is unknown.

Some of the plants from woodland communities in the West Angelas area of the Pilbara region (about 350 km N of Sandstone) superficially resemble those from Sandstone; however, it is not known if they represent the same biological entity. This woodland variant of *A. aptaneura* is discussed by Maslin & Reid (2012: 179–180) and is illustrated in Figure 16A of that work; however, it should be noted that there are plants of typical *A. aptaneura* that occur also in these woodland communities. All Pilbara plants that are provisionally referred here to *Acacia aptaneura* (short/broad phyllode variant) are sterile. Further study, including genetic information, is needed to properly assess the status of both the Sandstone/Wiluna and Pilbara populations.

(B.R. Maslin)