

SOME NEW SOUTH WALES PLANTS ILLUSTRATED.

(No. I.)

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(Plate xxxvii.)

ACACIA PROMINENS, A. Cunn. in G. Don, Gen. Syst. ii. 406, B.Fl.
ii. 371.

One of the first signs of the wattle-flowering season around Sydney is the presence of beautiful sprays of this Acacia in florists' windows.

It begins to flower in July and continues to about the middle of September.

The best time to collect the seed is November and December for Sydney, and February for the southern districts.

The principal Sydney localities where it is to be found appear to be Oatley, Hurstville, Penshurst, and Canterbury; thence to the Illawarra. It is also plentiful between Gosford and Newcastle, and outside this area it extends to the Blue Mountains on the west and as far south as the Snowy Range, near the Victorian border.

My observations and researches in connection with this plant in the living state have supplemented a few botanical points to Bentham's description, which, as we know, was made from dried specimens; and from numerous examinations of fresh material I have, at the same time, been compelled to differ in a slight degree from his diagnosis.

As there is no necessity to re-publish what in Bentham's description the plate fully bears out, I will only state in what respects it differs somewhat, owing to the variability of the species.

It is described as "a tall shrub," but it is very often to be seen over 20 feet, and not uncommonly exceeding 30 feet in height, with a diameter in proportion.

The phyllodes often extend to 2 inches, particularly in plants found in the northern districts; about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in those in the neighbourhood of Sydney, and 1 inch in southern examples.

The racemes are given by Bentham as "about as long as" the phyllodes, but I find them almost always longer in the living state. They shrink very much in drying.

The pod ("neglected by collectors in the majority of specimens gathered") can scarcely be said to be "very flat"; it is light warm-brown in colour, glabrous and rugose; measuring 1 to 3 inches long and $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 inch broad.

The seeds are at first transverse, but in some cases oblique and longitudinal, along the centre; they appear to change their position prior to falling.

The coloured plate (Bot. Mag., Vol. LXIII., No. 3502) in no way assists to identify the species.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE.

PLATE XXXVII.

Branchlet collected at Canterbury, near Sydney, Aug. 1891 (nat. size).

- Fig. 1.—Unexpanded flower (enlarged).
Fig. 2.—Expanded flower (enlarged).
Fig. 3.—Pistil (enlarged).
Fig. 4.—Various views of a stamen (enlarged).
Fig. 5.—Pollen grain (enlarged).
Fig. 6.—Twig with pod (Hurstville) (nat. size).
Fig. 7.—Pod from Snowy Mountains (nat. size).
Fig. 8.—Seed (enlarged).
Figs. 9 and 10.—Extreme forms of phyllodes (nat. size)



Baker, Richard T. 1892. "Some New South Wales plants illustrated. No. 1."
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