Pickard’s Wattle
*Acacia pickardii*

Pickard’s Wattle is a tall shrub or small tree that is three to five metres high. These plants can be single or multi-stemmed with rough deeply fissured grey bark on the trunk. Like most Acacia species, Pickard’s Wattles have narrow phyllodes, three to six centimetres long, instead of leaves. Small insects called thrips make galls on the phyllodes which can be mistaken for fruit. Sharp prickles can be found on Pickard’s Wattle plants. Many acacias are eaten by grazing animals, but these spikes make Pickard’s Wattles less appetising, and are very useful as a defence against grazers. Prickly plants like this provide good cover for small native animals like hopping mice by creating a space where predators don’t want to follow them.

**Reproduction**
These plants have yellow flowers which usually appear following good rains when the plant is less stressed and able to grow and reproduce better. However, Pickard’s Wattle has had some trouble reproducing from seed out in the arid areas where they live. Even though they produce nice bright flowers there are not enough pollinators around (like birds and bees) to fertilise them. Cleverly, they evolved and developed a new strategy of reproduction. This involves what is known as vegetative reproduction. This species still reproduces from seed when conditions are favourable, so it has two different ways to reproduce.

**Habitat**
Known only in north-eastern SA and south-eastern Northern Territory, Pickard’s Wattle is found in a small area of central Australia. These plants grow in gibber-covered sand plains and areas with sand covering stony clay on low rises and nearby flat areas. In areas like this where not many plants grow, new seedlings and suckers are often eaten by grazing animals.

**Threats**
Grazing pressure from rabbits, feral animals and cattle is a threat to Pickard’s Wattle. Over-grazing can stop growth from suckers, making it hard for the plants to reproduce. Disturbance from the roadworks along the Birdsville track is another possible threat to this species.
Clones! Pickard’s Wattle reproduce vegetatively by sending out long shoots called suckers which can then form whole new plants.

**Conservation**

You can help Pickard’s Wattle by:

- supporting efforts to conserve threatened species in your area by joining a volunteering on-ground or local conservation group
- getting involved with revegetation projects in your local area.

**For further information**

**Public enquiries**

For more local information on any of the species in this resource please contact your nearest Natural Resource Centre office on:

- **Eastwood**: (08) 8273 9100
- **Gawler**: (08) 8523 7700
- **Lobethal**: (08) 8389 5900
- **Willunga**: (08) 8550 3400

**Education enquiries**

For teachers wanting more information about environmental education resources and opportunities please contact the relevant NRM Education sub regional team on:

- **Northern Adelaide**: (08) 8406 8289
- **Barossa**: (08) 8563 8436
- **Central Adelaide**: (08) 8234 7255
- **Southern Adelaide**: (08) 8384 0176
- **Southern Fleurieu**: (08) 8551 0524