

## Plant of the Month – November 2013

### *Acacia gibsonii* – Gibson's Wattle



*Acacia gibsonii* is a new species with distinctively short, 3-nerved phyllodes and short spikes, having affinity to *A. incongesta* R.S.Cowan & Maslin. The species is known from a

geographically very restricted area of greenstone hills between Norseman and Hyden. It was previously listed under the phrase name, *Acacia* sp. Lake Johnston (N. Gibson & M. Lyons 1959), and is a Priority One taxon under the Department of Parks and Wildlife's Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora.

This species is locally common (many thousands of plants) where it occurs; however, it has a very restricted distribution that is outside the conservation estate. It occurs on two adjacent hills within the Lake Johnston Greenstone Belt - an extensive belt of greenstone that extends c. 50 km from Round Top Hill (120 km E of Norseman) south-east to the Bremer Range (100 km SW of Norseman). This greenstone belt is comprised of series of highly metamorphosed igneous and sedimentary sequences.

The botanical name honours **Dr Neil Gibson**, Principal Research Scientist with the Department of Parks and Wildlife. Neil co-discovered (with Michael Lyons) this species in September 1994. Neil has been involved in extensive floristic surveys in south-west Western Australia, with a particular emphasis on the Swan Coastal Plain, wheatbelt and the greenstone and banded ironstone ranges of the Yilgarn. He was also involved in a floristic survey of the Pilbara region and has made a significant contribution to botanical history through his translation of the seminal work by L. Diels and E. Pritzel on the biogeography of Western Australia.

*Acacia gibsonii* was recently described by Bruce Maslin in our journal *Nuytsia*, from which much of this text is transcribed. This revision includes a detailed taxonomic description, discussion of affinities and an image of the holotype specimen.

Photo: B.R. Maslin

[Find out more about \*Acacia gibsonii\*](#)

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