PLANT FACT SHEET

Senegalia erubescens (Welw. ex Oliver) Kyal. & Boatwr.

GENUS *Senegalia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Blue thorn, Yellow-bark acacia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Gum, Resin, Bark - curdling milk

The gum is eaten raw and is very sweet.
The bark is used to help milk curdle.

DESCRIPTION

A tree which loses many of its leaves during the year. It is a shrub or small tree. It can grow to 6 m tall. It may have one or many stems. The leaves are yellowish green to grey-green. The bark peels off the trunk. The bark is corky or papery. The young branches are often grey or white. The thorns are short and hooked. They occur in pairs and are very sharp. They are often bluish in colour. The leaves are 4-5 cm long and have about 5 pairs of side branches with 20 pairs of leaflets. The flowers are fat yellow sweet scented spikes. The pods occur in bunches. They are 4-10 cm long and 1.3 cm wide. They are straight, flat, pointed and papery. They are dark brown and are criss-crossed with a network of veins. The edges are thick. The gum is yellow and sweet.

HABITAT

It grows in tropical and warm places. It does best in deep sands. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall between 100-520 mm. It cannot tolerate frost. It can grow in arid places.

NOTES

There are about 1,350 Acacia species. Over 1,000 occur in Australia. Also as Mimosaceae.

REFERENCES

Fl. trop. Afr. 2:343. 1871 (As Acacia erubescens)

Fowler, D. G., 2007, Zambian Plants: Their Vernacular Names and Uses. Kew. p 32 (As Acacia erubescens)

Fox, F. W. & Young, M. E. N., 1982, Food from the Veld. Delta Books. p 200 (As Acacia erubescens)

Grivetti, 1976, (As Acacia erubescens)

Grivetti, L. E., 1980, Agricultural development: present and potential role of edible wild plants. Part 2: Sub-Saharan Africa, Report to the Department of State Agency for International Development. p 79 (As Acacia erubescens)

http://aflora.africa.kyoto-u.ac.jp (As Acacia erubescens)

ILDIS Legumes of the World http:www;ildis.org/Legume/Web (As Acacia erubescens)

Neelo, J., et al, 2015, Ethnobotanical Survey of Woody Plants in Shorobe and Xobe Villages, Northwest Region of Botswana. Ethnobotany Research & Applications 14:367-379 (As Acacia erubescens)

Palgrave, K.C., 1996, Trees of Southern Africa. Struik Publishers. p 235 (As Acacia erubescens)

Palmer, E and Pitman, N., 1972, Trees of Southern Africa. Vol. 2. A.A. Balkema, Cape Town p 758 (As Acacia erubescens)

Peters, C. R., O'Brien, E. M., and Drummond, R.B., 1992, Edible Wild plants of Sub-saharan Africa. Kew. p 126 (As Acacia erubescens)

Roodt, V., 1998, Trees & Shrubs of the Okavango Delta. Medicinal Uses and Nutritional value. The Shell Field Guide Series: Part 1. Shell Botswana. p 193 (As Acacia erubescens)

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (1999). Survey of Economic Plants for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SEPASAL) database. Published on the Internet; http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/ceb/sepasal/internet [Accessed 26th April 2011] (As Acacia erubescens)

Ruiters-Welcome, A. K., 2019, Food plants of southern Africa. Ph.D. thesis. Univ. of Johannesburg p 60

Story, 1958, (As Acacia erubescens)

van Wyk, Ben-Erik, 2019, The diversity and multiple uses of southern African legumes. Australian Systematic Botany, 2019, 32, 519–546

Welcome, A. K. & Van Wyk, B.-E., 2019, An inventory and analysis of the food plants of southern Africa. South African Journal of Botany 122 (2019) 136–179

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

www.zimbabweflora.co.zw 2011 (As Acacia erubescens)

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/03e6108d-567e-4cee-8eb6-f8befad7a9e6