PLANT FACT SHEET

Vachellia kirkii (Oliver) Kyal. & Boatwr.

GENUS *Vachellia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Kirk's acacia, Flood plain thorn

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Bark - tea, Gum

The bark is used to make tea. It is also used to curdle milk.
The gum or resin is edible.

DESCRIPTION

A flat topped shrub or small tree. It grows 2-15 m high. It can have one or many stems. It loses its leaves during the year. The bark is yellow to brown. It peels off showing green to yellow bark underneath. There are spines in pairs. They are 4-8 mm long. The leaves are made up of 6-14 pairs of larger leaflets and 7-20 pairs of small leaflets. These are narrow. The flowers are in heads and are yellow or white. The fruit are straight pods. They are 2-10 cm long by 0.8-2 cm wide. There are 2 seeds. There is a small point on the top.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in woodland, grassland and lower hills. It is often in areas with seasonal drainage. It grows from 1,500-1,900 m altitude. It grows in areas with a rainfall above 100 mm per year. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be cut back and will re-grow.

NOTES

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

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