PLANT FACT SHEET

Vachellia macrostachya Reichenb.

GENUS *Vachellia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Gum, pod

The seeds are sometimes boiled and eaten. They can be dried and stored. The fruit is used as a sauce. The gum is edible.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It is prickly and grows 4-5 m high. The leaves are light green. There are a few prickles on the branches. They are red-brown and curved. The leaves are twice divided. There are 20-30 pairs of pinnae up to 5 cm long each with 35-50 pairs of leaflets. The flowers are cream and in spikes. The pods are flat and red brown. They are 8-15 cm long and up to 2 cm wide. There are 7-8 flat brown seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It forms thickets in the drier region of West Africa. It grows in the Sahel. It can grow on very poor soils. It grows in areas with annual rainfalls between 400-1,400 mm. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

NOTES

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

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